

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

"THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST." -Peter.

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Editorial Outlook

SCHOOLS IN ITALY.

Italy has had compulsory education for several years, and the percentage of illiteracy is steadily decreasing. When the present school system was introduced, eight per cent of the population was illiterate; now it is about thirty-five per cent. All schools, public and private, are required to submit to governmental inspection. In free schools there is much hope for the future of Italy.

TOADYISM.

It would not be nice for us to say that the average United States citizen is a good deal of a toady. It is one of their own papers, the *Christian-Evangelist*, which says: "Few people are more fickle or more faddy in some respects. They will in one breath sneer at society spelled with a capital S and the next moment bow down before one of the '400' in a way that the Frenchman, the Englishman or the German would not. It is one of the strange things in the American's make-up."

APPALLING.

The excursion steamer disaster of last week at New York, which caused the death of hundreds of people, is one of the most appalling events of recent years. It is yet impossible to tell how many were lost—perhaps nearly a thousand. And the calamity fell almost exclusively on a single community, the members of a single congregation and their friends. Universal sympathy is felt for the stricken families, and for the pastor of the congregation bereft in an hour of members of his family and so many of his people.

ATTEMPTED BRIBERY.

The Premier of France, Mr. Combes, states that he was offered a bribe of two million francs (\$400,000) to introduce a bill permitting the Carthusian monks to remain in France. The offer was made through his son. The name of the person who acted for the monks has not yet been made public. The Chamber of Deputies has appointed a committee to investigate the whole matter. The monks have for long been the manufacturers of a liquor widely known and sold, and have made large profits. Other makers of liquors, they were able to pay largely for the privilege of carrying on their traffic undisturbed, and were, also, like others of their kind, quite equal to the use of corrupt means to accomplish their end.

PROF-MAKING MONKS.

That Protestant monastery, of which we made mention two or three weeks ago, recently established in New York

State, is to be devoted to the production of wine, after the manner of some old-world monasteries. These men who professedly give themselves up to what they regard as a life of the greatest religious devotion might find something better to employ themselves at than manufacturing the destroyer of men. That is a strange idea of religious service which moves men to shut themselves off from the world, and at the same time moves them to make and send out into the world that which causes more ruin of human good and happiness than any other one evil thing. They would seem to be chiefly in need of some common sense and a sense of righteousness.

RELIGIOUS CHAOS.

Quoting I Timothy 4:1-2, and II Timothy 4:3-4, the *Chicago Chronicle* says these gloomy forebodings of Paul read like a description of the theological world now, with special reference to Chicago, where every crank notion in regard to religion finds a congenial soil, and flourishes in proportion to its repulsive absurdity. Just now public attention is directed to a congregation of 1,500 such worshippers in that city who stick needles in their flesh like Buddhist monks, and starve themselves into insanity and death. And there are many other quite as crazy notions, all getting a following. The *Chronicle* says "it would be impossible to present a list of the new religions of Chicago sailing under the name 'New Thought,' or the 'Philosophy of This,' and the 'Philosophy of That,' or the 'Science of This,' or the 'Science of That.' Every cheap hall in the heart of the city is rented on Sunday for the public services of some sort of religious fantasies. Their sign-boards are stuck out in front of every entrance, and men with a queer look in their eyes force their incomprehensible printed trash into the hands of passers-by."

SUNDAY BANDS.

The *Presbyterian Witness* (Halifax) says:

There has been some talk of a band of music in the Public Gardens on Sunday afternoons. The gardens are delightful, and truly attractive—sufficiently so without a band on Sundays. On the whole we respectfully submit to the authorities that a Sunday band is not required, and that it will do no good while it may do harm. Sunday is not have lessons enough as to the folly and worship. In a Christian city like Halifax it is befitting us to dispense with the band in the gardens. Anything that tends to secularize is to deprecate. We have lessons enough as the folly and danger of making Sunday a day of amusement.

A Fredericton band thought to have an occasional Sunday afternoon concert this summer, but so soon as it was intimated to them that the pastors of the city and others interested in the proper observance of the Lord's day did not

regard the proposal with favor, and that the effect would surely be bad, the members of the band readily and cheerfully decided to abandon their plan. And their course is very much appreciated by the best citizens. Perhaps those responsible for the proposal to have Sunday bands playing in Halifax will be as mindful of the Christian sentiment of that city.

ONE WEEK'S SAMPLES.

A batch of "drunks" every morning in the St. John police court. Nothing thought of it. They are the legitimate fruit of the rum traffic. The following are sample cases:

A drunken man fell over a wharf and would have been drowned but for timely help.

Three boys in the police court for drunkenness. Somebody had to pay their fines.

Two rum-sellers up for selling to minors; the minimum fine was imposed, the magistrate suggesting that the law was unfair to them, and expressing regret that he could not, instead, fine the minors and interdicts who buy the rum.

The magistrate said he was continually receiving "letters and having calls from mothers and sisters whose husbands, brothers or fathers were going to destruction on account of liquor." He took occasion, at the same time, to tell the policemen that they must not arrest all the drunken men they see; but they should merely superintend their movements homeward. The license system is a great system. Everything is made as easy as possible for the brutal creatures who are profiting by brutalizing their fellows, old and young.

In Nova Scotia two sample cases of the traffic's fiery work are—Albert Brady committed for trial charged with the murder of Herbert Parr in a drunken carousal near Halifax; and John Macrae committed for trial for the murder of his father in a Glace Bay groggery.

THE WAR.

The Japanese scored another victory on the 15th inst. at Telisu. Gen. Kuropatkin's report to St. Petersburg says: "Yesterday (Wednesday) I had intended to attack the enemy's right flank, but just as our troops had been assigned for the purpose and were beginning to successfully envelop the enemy's right flank, the Japanese in their turn attacked my right flank with a superior force, and I was compelled to retreat by three roads to the north. Our losses are heavy, but they are not yet completely known. During the engagement the third and fourth batteries of the first artillery brigade were literally cut to pieces by the Japanese shells. Of sixteen guns, thirteen were rendered completely useless and were abandoned. The conduct of the troops was excellent, a large proportion of them refusing to

retire until after they had been repeatedly ordered to do so."

The report from Gen. Uko to Tokio says his forces captured the enemy's colors, a number of guns and 300 prisoners, and drove the Russians northward. The losses on both sides were quite heavy, perhaps 1,000 of each being killed or wounded.

violated the Japanese flag. During the fighting a body of Russian soldiers appeared carrying a Japanese flag, and the Japanese artillery, deceived by the flag, ceased firing on that particular body of Russians. Official despatches from the Japanese commanders made specific charges of this flag violation.

Two Japanese transports were destroyed Wednesday by Russian warships near Oki Island. The loss of men is probably 1,000, besides horses and supplies.

BRIEF MENTION.

The statement that Earl Gray had been named as the next Governor General of Canada is denied.

If Japan is victorious, it will mean a free field for Christian missions in Korea, and probably also in Manchuria.

The population of Finland has diminished by over 300,000 in five years, due to the country's deprivation of constitutional rights by Russia.

Col. Aylmer has been appointed Dundonald's successor as general officer commanding.

It is stated that the Department of Justice will appoint a parole officer to have supervision of discharged prisoners, and more particularly those who are given conditional liberty under the Parole law.

The leader of the Opposition, Mr. R. L. Borden, reached his fiftieth birthday Thursday. Conservative senators and members presented him with a case of silverware.

Dowie was in London last week, but did not get a very cordial reception. He had difficulty in finding hotel accommodation. He left hurriedly for Paris, and will, probably, soon be back in the United States.

The British government has spoken plainly to Belgium regarding the cruelties and atrocities which have darkened the history of the Congo Free State. Lord Lansdowne urges the appointment of an independent commission to investigate charges.

Senator Wark has returned from Ottawa, and will not go back this session. He is in good health.

MISS WIGGINS.—Miss Wiggins, of Toronto, the travelling representative of the W. C. T. U., has been delivering addresses in this province. She has been in Fredericton, Woodstock, and other places. She is a clear and pleasing speaker, and strongly impresses her audiences. Her work is having a good effect.