

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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

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Editorial Outlook

The latest and authentic accounts of the four days' fighting, January 25-29, which Field Marshal Oyama in his official report designates as the battle of Heroukata, show that the operations were much more extensive, the forces larger, and the fighting more desperate than the first reports indicated. The Japanese killed and wounded numbered 7,000, the Russians probably twice as many. Gen. Oyama's report says the army fought in a driving snow-storm; it was bitterly cold and very difficult to see. Kuropatkin was the attacking force, but the attack failed of its purpose, the Japanese, as usual, gaining the advantage. The main body of the Russians, after their defeat at Heiokata, retreated across the river.

In no country is the tobacco habit more general and inveterate than in Spain. Nearly everybody smokes cigarettes. The bad effects have become so marked that the authorities are alarmed, and an attempt is being made to check the evil. The Minister of the Interior has introduced a bill absolutely prohibiting the sale of cigars or cigarettes to persons under seventeen years of age. Quite severe penalties, including imprisonment in certain cases, are imposed on violators of the law. The measure is justified as imperative for the arrest of racial degenerating. Tuberculosis makes great ravages among Spanish laboring youths, who, for the most part, undernourished and already enfeebled by this and overwork, aggravate matters by spending much of their scanty wages in tobacco, principally cigarettes.

The accounts from Russia differ quite widely from day to day, but out of them all may be gathered the belief that conditions are improving. The Czar has evidently given ear to the wiser counsels of M. de Witte and M. Yermoloff, who have told him very frankly that there must be a change in the system of government, and that the people must have some voice in the conduct of the country's affairs.

The Czar received a deputation of workmen on the 1st inst at the Palace. Replying to their addresses, he bade them to go back to work, and assured them that he would have an investigation of their grievances made, and would do everything possible to improve their lot.

There is no improvement in the situation in Poland. At Warsaw workmen in more than 200 factories are on strike.

Whence has come the prevalence of appendicitis? Writing in the *Nineteenth Century*, Dr. Joseph Kidd, a well-known English physician, says that "without doubt, hurried eating and imperfect mastication are very potent causes of appendicitis." Ill-masticated and indigested fragments of food choke the intestinal canal, and infect the appendix. A chill may then very rapidly set up a dangerous condition. Sir Frederick Treves once said that "many an operation for appendicitis has been prevented by a new set of teeth." It is startling to hear that aperient waters and salts and liver pills may promote appendicitis by too rapidly draining the intestinal canal, leaving the solids to accumulate. To prevent appendicitis, Dr. Kidd gives various rules: Do not neglect chills when heated by exercise, especially when much fatigued in mind or body; eat slowly, do not swallow any food that is not perfectly softened by the teeth; avoid aperient salts, waters or pills. Patience is the great thing, and diet management.

The New Brunswick Legislature is to meet March 9th.

Solicitor General Sweeney has become Surveyor General, and Mr. W. P. Jones, M. P. P. for Carleton Co., has been appointed Solicitor General in the N. B. government.

Corrected returns give the Conservatives 70 and the Liberals 28 in the Ontario Legislature.

Mr. R. L. Borden was elected to Parliament by acclamation in Carleton Co., Ont., Saturday. He will take his seat in the Commons this week.

Mr. H. H. Wickwire, M. P. P. for Kings Co., N. S., has been appointed a member of the Nova Scotia government without portfolio.

Mr. E. M. Farrell, M. P. P. for Queens, Co., is to be Speaker of the Nova Scotia Legislature.

There is trouble in the Quebec government. Evidently a strong section of the former supporters of the government are opposed to Premier Parent. To strengthen himself with the opposing faction, he recently took one of them, M. Monet, into his government. Now three of his ministers are threatening to resign, and they say they have enough supporters to overthrow Mr. Parent.

The annual report of Dr. Smith, the medical superintendent of the Leper Hospital at Tracadie, N. B., shows that there are now in the institution fifteen persons ten males and five females. The youngest is ten years old, and the oldest sixty-two years. Four deaths

occurred during the year, and three new cases were admitted, one from outside the province. Nine of the lepers are of French, three of English and three of Icelandic origin. During the year, chaulmugra oil, in combination, has been freely used by the inmates, and with very beneficial effects. Even in some advanced cases, the effects of the oil are marked, the patients becoming vigorous and expressing themselves as feeling better and stronger. Erysipelas and leproic fever, both accompaniments of the disease, are almost unknown since the introduction of the oil two years ago.

For several years past Dr. Smith has been compiling a record from all available sources of the history of the lepers from the first known cases; the local conditions connected with them; their origin, nativity, etc. As a result of careful investigation he is more convinced of the communicability of leprosy through contagion. During a recent tour of investigation through adjoining parishes, the doctor found one undoubted case of leprosy. He also found three persons showing suspicious premonitory symptoms. Notwithstanding this, he reports that leprosy is rapidly decreasing. The absolute number has become much reduced within the past few years, and the reduction in ratio to the population is still much greater.

Strikes are generally very costly, both to workmen and employers. The Fall River strike, which recently ended, was a very expensive one to the employees who were so long out of work, and was, perhaps, quite as

expensive to the mill owners. A statement by one who has figured out the money side of it, says "the direct losses were about five millions of dollars. The loss to the operatives alone in money, had they remained at work at the proposed reduction in wages, is about three millions of dollars. The difference between the rate demanded and the rate offered amounted to \$400,000 during the term of the strike. The strikers thus lost three millions of dollars in their efforts to save \$400,000. Many of the strikers endured actual suffering and many became objects of public charity; and the little sums in the savings banks, laid by for a rainy day, dissipated. The employers before the strike offered the terms which they said they could afford to pay, and offered to submit their books to prove that they could pay no more without suffering an actual financial loss in their business. The Fall River mills owners and wage earners have lived together and worked together, through good as well as hard times, for more than two

generations. Such an experience should have developed a wide measure of confidence. The operatives are to be commended for the peaceful conduct of their strike. The entire experience is a cause for sincere regret. Both sides would have been much better off to-day if the strike had not occurred.

The Spencer apple, it is called, being named for the Englishman who has produced it after a dozen years of experimenting. It is seedless and coreless, and will be in the apple markets what the seedless orange is in the orange markets. It is said to be a well-flavored, winter-keeping fruit. There are now about two thousand trees in existence, all sprung from the first five, and in a short time no doubt the number will largely increase. *The Nineteenth Century and After*, in the last number, had a very interesting article on the new evolution of the apple-grower's art—for such it appears to be. And the patient and skilful orchardist who brought it to perfection, claims, if we read aright, that he can render any of the leading varieties seedless. It is a question of time and care and patient "breeding." And among its advantages is reckoned the fact that, as the tree has no brightly-colored, scented blossom, but only a rudimentary and green substitute for one, the codlin moth, one of the apple-grower's great pests, is not tempted to it. Those who know what the navel orange is as compared with other varieties, can realize what the seedless apple will be as compared with other apples. Orchardists will do well to prepare for the coming revolution in the apple market.

It would seem from a blue book just issued that Col. Younghusband, who was in command of the Tibetan expedition, went beyond the instructions given him by the British government. After Col. Younghusband had brought the Tibetans to submission, he made a convention with them, requiring the payment of \$3,750,000 indemnity, payable in seventy-five annual instalments, which meant that the British would occupy the Chumbi valley till the last instalment was paid. During the negotiations, the government telegraphed Col. Younghusband suggesting a reduction to \$1,250,000 in the indemnity; but on his representing that any change would defeat the object of the expedition, the arrangement was allowed to stand as he had made it, except that the government refused to permit occupancy of (Continued on page 13).