

# The Church Guardian.

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity." Eph. vi. 24.  
"Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jude 3.

Vol. 3.—No. 38.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1882.

One Dollar a Year.

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A PAMPHLET on the Mississippi river and its tributaries gives the total number of miles of navigation at present, 15,710.

PRINCE ROLAND BONAPARTE, who married Madame Blanc's youngest daughter, is reported to have sold his interest in the Monaco gaming-tables to a "society of English capitalists" for 23,000,000 francs.

The *Standard* says the Afghan war medal will be issued next year. The bronze star, in commemoration of Sir F. Robert's march from Cabul to Candahar, will not be ready for some little time.

LEO XIII. has named the English Cardinal Howard to be Arch-priest of the Patriarchal Basilica of St. Peter's, in the place of the late Cardinal Borromeo. This is one of the most coveted appointments in the gift of the Pontiff.

The Spanish Minister of Justice, replying to an interpellation in the Congress of Deputies last week, stated that slavery no longer existed in the colonies of Spain. In conformity with recent legislation, it had given place to a system of apprenticeship.

The recent exploration party of Colonel Mercer up the Spanish River, in the province of Ontario, is said to have discovered vast pine forests, containing upwards of 24,000,000 feet of a superior quality of pine lumber, with facilities for getting it to the market equal to the best.

The *Church Standard*, of New York, has been greatly exercised at the preference Calvary Church, of that city, has shown for Canon Cormichael, of Hamilton, Ontario, by electing him to their vacant rectory. It will doubtless bring peace to our con temporary's troubled mind to know that Canon Cormichael has definitely refused the offer, preferring to remain in Canada.

FRANCE has more railway accidents than any other country. The following comparative statistics are said to be authoritative: In France, one in 1,955,555 is killed, and one in 496,551 is wounded; in England, one in 5,256,290 is killed, and one in 311,340 wounded; in Belgium, one in 8,861,804 is killed, and one in 2,000,000 wounded; in Germany, only one in 24,411,488 is killed, and one in 3,892,998 wounded.

If Princeton theology cannot be trusted, what theology is safe? And yet a United Presbyterian paper, *The Christian Instructor*, asks the question—"Is there anything amiss at Princeton?" The writer has been at a celebrated Summer resort, and listened to six "instructive and interesting Sermons from two graduates of Princeton Seminary, both able men, one a D.D. He says: "From all the six efforts no one could have learned that man is a sinner or Christ the Saviour. Had there been any stray sheep present, nothing was said that would either drive or entice them back to the fold."

In the Mexican Church there are nine native Presbyters, mostly converts from the Roman Catholic Priesthood. One of these has been elected to the Episcopal office, and expects soon to be consecrated and assist Bishop Riley. This mission field is already divided between Bishop Riley and Bishop elect Hernandez. The former has jurisdiction over 20 churches, including two in the city of Mexico, embraced in a circuit of over 200 miles. The latter looks after 33 churches and organized congregations, and about 50 unorganized, in States distant from 70 to 230 miles from the capital. The congregations range from 30 to 300 each, and connected with this Episcopal Church movement are about 7000 members.

A RECENT publication by Mathieu Bodet, ex-Finance Minister, shows how France has managed to steer through her financial difficulties since the German invasion. The war, it seems, added over \$1,500,000,000 to the public debt; the short but violent reign of the Commune, \$50,000,000; and the German indemnity, \$1,000,000,000. To meet that portion of the enormous burden, which had to be discharged at once, a loan of \$400,000,000 was thrown upon the market in 1871, and another of \$600,000,000 in 1872. For the first no less than \$1,000,000,000 was tendered, and for the second the almost incredible sum of \$8,600,000,000. To meet the interest of the loans new taxation to the amount of \$140,000,000 per annum was devised. Not only was this extra taxation easily raised, but the revenues of the country have increased so rapidly that every year there has been a surplus and \$60,000,000 taxes has been remitted.

THE Rev. Dr. Charles Howard Malcolm, formerly a clergyman of the Baptist denomination in Newport, R. I., and now of New York, was ordained to the Priesthood in Grace Church, Wednesday morning, Dec. 14, by Bishop Clark, of Rhode Island.

THE Rev. Frank Stringfellow, who lectured in St. John's lecture room, Richmond, Va., on Friday night, is none other than the quiet and trusted scout of General Lee, whose bold exploits created so much comment during the war. His comrades at last tempted him to take the platform and tell them something of his scout life. His exploits prove that fact is stranger than fiction.

We read in the *Daily News* Paris correspondence that the Abbe Bichery, who lately abjured Rome again in an American Episcopal chapel at Rome, on Monday publicly retracted in the Loyson Church, Rue d'Arnas, so much of Romanism as Father Hyacinthe rejects, and has written to the papers that he made a great mistake in separating from him.

CHICAGO may be regarded as the modern Jerusalem. It is probable that there are more Hebrews in it than in any other city of equal population in the world. The Jews, like other people are not all pious; but it is stated that there are fifteen Synagogues in Chicago, which have an average attendance of over 1300 members each, in the aggregate about 20,000 Israelites who take part in religious services.

BISHOP CLARK, at the funeral of the late Mr. Bartlett, quoted the latter as having written as follows: "But what seems a very powerful argument in favour of prayer, and, indeed, unanswerable; is the universal instinct to fall down before a higher power and petition for help and relief under affliction for which there is no remedy. By the death of one beloved, who would not pray? Then it will not do to make light of prayer, to attempt to ridicule the whole world on its knees, for alike saint and sinner, the reverend pastor and the pirate in a storm, supplicate the same God for forgiveness and relief."

THE *Newcastle Journal* announces the completion of the bishopric fund. At a meeting held at Durham Cas'le, under the presidency of Earl Percy, on Monday, the Bishop of Durham being also present, the treasurer stated that the sum of £40,550 had been promised in subscriptions, and £2,049 more, the proceeds of Church Offertories. It was resolved that efforts should be made in order that the income of the see might be raised, if possible, above the minimum £3,000 required by the act, which has been already secured, and that applications be made for the payment before the end of January of the contributions promised.

AN interesting meeting of the Executive Committee of the Home Reunion Society was held on Wednesday at 7, Whitehall, Earl Nelson in the chair. An addition of forty new members was reported. Several recent instances of goodwill to the Church on the part of Nonconformists were reported—e.g., the donation £10 to Truro Cathedral, by a Quaker who attended the diocesan conference; of Benwell Castle by another Quaker as the residence of the future Bishop of Newcastle; and of a collection made in a Nonconformist chapel for the repair of a church at Leytonstone recently damaged by the gales. The promotion of friendly intercourse between Churchmen and Nonconformists, and the removal of prejudices, are prominent objects in the society's work.

THE Bishop of Lichfield, in a pastoral dated St. Andrew's-day, directs special attention to the great importance of observing, so far as it may be possible, the "Holy Seasons of the Christian year." After quoting an extract from his primary charge on that subject, his Lordship says that, at the beginning of a new Christian year, he desires to call attention to this important subject, and to express an earnest hope that an effort will be made by all to make these seasons what they were intended to be—a real help to the religious instruction and spiritual life of the people. Every season and every holy day has its special lesson, each forming parts of the great gospel committed to their care: bringing into prominence some special truth or setting forth some holy example and the due observance of fast and festival, would be helpful towards impressing the teaching of the Church (which indeed is the teaching of God's Word) upon the people, and thus building them up in His holy faith. It was quite possible to make these days instructive to the very poorest, and so to arrange the service as to attract them to the House of God.

THE well-known English Israelite, Sir Moses Montefiore, has passed his ninety-seventh birthday. He had received a letter from Mrs. Garfield, in which she thanked him for having procured the prayers of the Jewish congregations in Jerusalem and other places, for her husband, and on the occasion of his birthday he sent a check for \$500. to a friend in Boston, requesting him to distribute the money among the charities of the city in memory of the late President Garfield.

A COMPLETE Hindu, on being assailed with a torrent of profane and obscene words, from his idolatrous neighbors went up to them and asked:—

"Which is worse, the abusive words that you are using, or the mud and dirt you see lying on your dung hill?"

"The abusive words," was the reply.

"And would you ever take into your mouth that mud and dirt?"

"Never."

"Then why do you fill your mouths with the abusive words, which you confess to be the worse of the two?"

Confounded with this rebuke, they retired, saying, that "that argument was but fair."

## FOREIGN MISSIONS.

### CHINA.—VIII.

### OPUM REFUGES.

The use of opium with all its attendant misery and horror has been, and still is, a great curse to the Chinese. The evil effects of this drug are thus described by Dr. Oppenheim:—

"A total attenuation of body, a withered, yellow countenance, a lame gait, a bending of the spine, frequently to such a degree as to assume a circular form, and glassy, deep-sunken eyes, betray the opium eater at the first glance. His digestive organs are in the highest degree disturbed; the sufferer scarcely eats anything; his mental and bodily powers are destroyed; he is impotent."

"When the baneful habit has become confirmed it is almost impossible to break it off. His torments when deprived of the stimulant are as dreadful as his bliss is complete when he has taken it. Night brings the torments of hell; day, the bliss of paradise; and after long indulgence he becomes subject to nervous pains, to which opium itself brings no relief. He seldom attains the age of 40 if he had begun the practice early."—*Nov. Blackwood.*

In a word, the physical, mental and moral degradation produced by indulgence in this bad habit can only be compared to the effect which the disgusting vice of intemperance has upon the inhabitants of our Western world. To the Chinese missionary, therefore, an opium refuge, to receive those who wished to be cured, would seem a most desirable branch of Christian work. The means were provided in the following unexpected manner.

Twenty years ago an official of the Government in India, (an Englishman) was led by conscientious motives to relinquish his office as collector of the opium revenue. He soon followed up this act of self-denial by giving the savings of his official life to the Church Missionary Society, for the benefit of opium smokers. The gift amounted to \$15,000. By a remarkable coincidence just as the news of this donation reached Ningpo, a large number of opium smokers from King-hwa, some seven days journey distant, came up to seek relief from foreign doctors. As no regular practitioner could receive them, Mr. Gough, after much prayer and consultation, took the sufferers into his compound; and in the course of three months, from February 17th to May 22nd, 1860, he admitted in succession 133 patients, each one paying a deposit of two dollars. The anxiety and the strain on fact and temper were very great. The patients, under the influence of the craving for the drug, which is usually at its height a few days after the pipe has been laid aside, resorted to every kind of expedient to retain relief. Baskets were let down from the upper windows of the temporary hospital, in which opium was placed by friends in league outside; window bars, intended to obstruct them, were broken and cleverly spliced, so as not to attract attention; violent quarrels took place, the result of the restraint and the craving; false keys were used, and the communication between Mr. Gough's dwelling-house and the hospital was one night stopped by the patients. Many went back to their evil practices when released from trial and restraint, but some it is hoped were permanently cured. All had the Gospel preached to them, and one was baptized before he left. There were not a few who with sincere gra-

titude bade farewell to their Christian benefactor. And two catechists sent down to the district some months later, reported that about one-third of the cases appeared to be still abstaining from this evil habit.

In 1869 another attempt was made by Mr. Russell, and an opium hospital was opened under the care of the late Dr. Meadows. In 1871, Dr. Galt came out specially to commence an opium refuge in Hang-chow, to be supported by the fund already mentioned, supplemented by a grant from the C. M. S., and by medical fees for services rendered to residents. In this hospital, Dr. Galt has worked patiently and efficiently. He has experienced to the full Mr. Gough's trials, but he has not been without encouragement in his arduous work. From fifteen to twenty opium patients have been received and discharged, cured every month, and 4,000 out-patients afflicted with other maladies, have been treated free of all charge every year. The moral effect of these efforts is great and growing. They serve to show that no connection exists between Christian Missions and the opium trade. They utter a continual though silent protest against the trade. The missionaries are seen to be well-wishers of the Chinese, Christian truth is scattered far and wide, and friendly hearts and open houses are multiplied in city and country.

The last report from this opium refuge is contained in the *C. M. S. Intelligence* for August. Rev. J. H. Sedgewick writes during Dr. Galt's absence:—"Although there have been no actual baptisms from amongst the patients this year, yet it is certain that all of them have left us with some knowledge of the religion of Jesus, and of the precious truths embodied in its sacred books; and it is invariably encouraging to notice the rapt attention with which they listen to the exposition of the Scriptures. The following should seem to be satisfactory features of this work:—

"A schoolmaster from the neighbouring district of Haining, came to be cured of opium-smoking, after the hot months of summer, when he heard, for the first time, of One who died on the cross for his redemption. When he returned home to his duties, he not only did not forget what he had heard, but appears to have regularly read the Bible and prayed.

"He afterwards fell in with one of our colporteurs, who happened to be in that district, to whom he entrusted a letter to me, in which he professed his belief in the Saviour; and not only so, but he enclosed an ode to Christ, in which he praised Him as the Redeemer of the world, the only source from which true happiness and peace could come.

"One batch of patients consisted of nine of the most unsatisfactory individuals of a never very satisfactory class. But God, as if to rebuke one's faithlessness and unbelief, so blessed the exhortations addressed to them that, very soon after they entered, five of them gave in their names as inquirers, and I have seldom had the pleasure of speaking to more earnest listeners than they all proved during the time they stayed. They seem to have treasured up every word I or any one else had spoken to them about the Lord Jesus and His religion, and always after prayers they either plied one with questions, or, with flashing eyes and bright looks (some of them were hardly more than boys), earnestly strove which could say most in favour of the Lord Jesus and to the prejudice of idolatry.

"The brightest of the five, a vigorous, pleasant youth, lives near enough to us to attend church, but he has had to go to Ningpo on business, and when I sent to his house the other day, he had not returned, but he left a message that as soon as he returns he will call upon me.

"This youth, whose name is Dzen, told me that his father is a very earnest believer in Buddhism, and that when he went home from the hospital he told his father plainly that all his incense-burning and pilgrimage-making and priest-nourishing were as useless as vacant chaff, and pointed out to him the advantages of the religion of Jesus, and that all other religions whatsoever were inventions of the devil.

His father, feeling that the religion which had been instrumental in delivering his son from the curse of opium smoking could not be very bad, was not angry, but, on the contrary, promised to accompany his son to church on their return from Ningpo, and the latter felt sure that he need only see our mode of worship to feel its superiority, and to believe in the Lord Jesus, and I pray that his hopeful prediction may be verified.

"I am convinced that the only way to cure opium-smoking is to get them to trust in Christ for deliverance from all sin and its punishment, and these evidences of His power only make one hold the belief more strongly, and make one determine to point them still more earnestly to Him."