

Progress of the Gospel in South America.

In South America, missions are established in the United States of Columbia, in Brazil, in Uruguay, Patagonia, Argentine Confederation and Chili. With the exception of Patagonia and the Falkland Isles, all the other fields are occupied by American societies. The work in Brazil is full of encouragement. It is scarce fifty years since the door—closed to evangelical efforts in the south of the Empire—the hanging of the Presbyterian preacher (1807) and the expulsion from the north of the preachers of the Reformed Church of Holland (1854)—reopened at the adoption of the present constitution, which guarantees toleration of other forms of worship than the Romish. The discouragements attending the efforts of the Methodists in 1830, and subsequent missions of other evangelical bodies, led to their abandoning the field. But the present Presbyterian effort, dating from 1869, has steadily grown in power. In 1872 it reaped its first fruit. In 1866, the Presbytery of Rio de Janeiro was formed. In 1872 it was incorporated by imperial decree to have and to hold in all the Empire property for houses of worship, schools hospitals, and residence of pastors. Meantime a second Presbyterian was organized.

The work of the pulpit, the school, and the press is unrestrained, except by paucity of men and means. Conversations from all classes—the sensualist, the devotee, and the infidel—prove that the Gospel is the power of God. Several priests have become obedient to the faith, one of whom having served well his generation, fell asleep. Of a large number of young men who have felt called to the ministry, three are now ordained pastors of seven flourishing churches widely scattered. Others are hastening their preparations to go to churches which are as flocks without shepherds.

A religious paper, now in its eleventh year, is awakening attention in remote parts. Bibles are widely read. One colporteur sold last year in the Province of San Paulo 2,414 copies of the Scriptures, entire or in parts. Schools in which the Word is made prominent are multiplying and largely attended. The public favor, the largest liberty, and the Government have restrained the violence of adversaries. We thank God and take courage for enlarged effort.

Twenty churches have been organized, containing a membership of about eight hundred, and more could be established if men and means could be furnished. In the Republics mentioned, the Gospel has not taken as firm a hold upon the people as in Brazil; the cause is, however, prospering, especially in Chili. The field to be cultivated is large, but the laborers are few. This great work is opening up before the American churches, and they should go in and possess the lands for Christ. Whether they will advance in this day of the Lord's summons, or decline the call, will soon be seen.

An Arctic Veteran.

David Baxter, the nephew of an old Arctic sailor, George Baxter, writes to the London Times from 182 Holland Street, Glasgow:

"Captain Nares, in his account of his voyage to the Arctic seas, alludes to the voyage of Captain John Ross, R.N., in the years 1829-1838. Will you allow me to bring under the notice of the public, or any society of geographers, or, perhaps, an old shipmate, if there are any still alive, the case of a brave, although worn-out old seaman, who accompanied Capt. John Ross, R.N., and Commander James Ross in the Victory in the years mentioned? If any one will turn to the volume published by Captain Ross, he will find the name of George Baxter among the crew. They were shut up in the region of eternal frost and snow for a longer period than any other Arctic Expedition, having been locked up for four years, during which time they suffered all the horrors and privations of that inhospitable land, subjected to all the toil and cold and hunger, and only saved by the most superhuman exertions. Since then forty-three years have come and gone, and forty years of that period he has been to sea, sailing in all climates and suffering all the trials and hardships of those who go down to the sea in ships. For the last few years he has been residing at Millport—a small watering-place on the Clyde—and eking out a living by fishing and letting boats in summer. I regret to say he is now so frail and worn-out that he is unable to do anything for himself, and as he has no children, I submit his case to the care and consideration of the nation. Hitherto he has never needed, never asked, and never received a shilling, he having been a quiet-living, respectable man all his life. He is prematurely old, and although my own father is seventy-four and he eight years younger, he looks and is the frailer of the two. The severities he endured at the North Pole account for this. Four years continuous residence in that land of snow and ice, so vividly depicted by Captain Nares, were endured; and surely now, in this his last year or two he will not be allowed to pass away un-noticed and neglected. This is the first appeal that was ever made on his behalf. I write this with his full consent, and I trust that a sufficient degree of interest will be awakened, and that something will be done for him. He would be glad to know if any of his old comrades are alive, or if any of the heroic Ross family are to the fore. He is a native of Kinghorn, in Fifeshire."

Prof. PHILIP SHAFF, of New York, has sailed for Europe, intending to carry out his long-cherished purpose of visiting the Lands of the Bible. On his return he will attend the Pan-Presbyterian Council in Scotland next July.

A new religious sect is reported in Russia, a leading doctrine of which is that the husband should be the wife, must recognize her as the head of the family, and must confess his sins to her at least once a week. We are thinking of how wearied the new confessor's ears must become.

Taking and Giving Offence.

Half the people in the world have had friends whom now they know no more, yet with whom they never have had any absolute quarrel.

"There seemed to be some coldness, and we left off seeing each other," is the excuse; and no more is known, at least on one side. A candid talk might heal just everything; but there is no such talk, and each goes his way with a thorn in his breast—a miserable state of things enough, but a very common one. Ten to one a falsehood is at the bottom of it; perhaps only a look misinterpreted; perhaps nothing. We all wish that one who is offended with us would candidly state the reason. To clasp a hand in honest friendship one day, and on the next receive a distant how and a glance of mysterious reproach, is very hard, and often very cruel.

One cannot walk up to the offended individual and say, unasked, "I haven't said anything against you; I haven't called you any name, or expressed any evil intentions towards you." It would be placing one's self in the position of the little boy of whom we heard, who, having plucked the flowers from his grandmother's carnation pink, had resolved to assert his innocence, and exposed himself by volunteering the declaration, "Gamma, I didn't teal oo pink," before any one but himself knew anything of the robbery. Your friend would be confirmed in his suspicion by your words.

As for ostensible causes of offence, there are plenty of them. Quoting Shakespeare seems an innocent thing enough; but mortal offence was once given by the line—

"Shake not thy gory looks at me,"

uttered by an individual who had forgotten that the person to whom she spoke had red hair. Jones, forgetting to introduce Smith to Brown, makes two undying enemies, each believing the other a distinguished personage, to whom Jones was ashamed to present an ordinary personage like himself. Bashful girls offend their lovers by trying to conceal the fact that their hearts are touched, and bashful men offend the women they love, out of pure stupidity and terror of them. Old Goldbag's nephew is disinherited because he cannot laugh at his uncle's jokes; and married pairs have parted because of quarrels that had their origin in the color of a glove or the flavor of a pudding. On the whole, we are very lucky if we do not go through the world dropping our friends behind us to mark the way, as Hop-o-my-Thumb dropped his bread crumbs on his way to the ogre's mansion.

The Position of Constantinople.

Long before the time of Constantine the growing Roman empire required an imperial center nearer to its geographical center than its old capital on the Tiber; and certainly, if Constantine had fixed his new capital with the aid of modern science and art, he could not possibly have chosen a site which would prove so natural a political center as the one he actually selected.

Compare it to-day, considered as the capital of a great empire, with Rome, or with any European capital. There is not one of them all that can sustain the comparison for a moment. Constantinople sits like a queen on the one great highway between Europe and Asia. Her site is easy of defence. She has a magnificent harbor. She is facile mistress of the sea on either side, by means of the straits of the Bosphorus and the Hellespont. What is the site of London, or Paris, or Berlin, or Vienna, or St. Petersburg in the comparison? No wonder the Czar has long looked with envious eyes toward the Golden Horn—to the capital city of the Greek church and the Greek empire. No wonder that the whole "Eastern question" has long hinged on what is to be done with Constantinople and the highway, which she controls. Europe cares little about the outlying possessions of the Sultan; but it is a vital question with every chief European state who should hold the key city of all the East.

Viewed commercially, the site of Constantinople is scarcely less than perfect. Even before the Christian era her commerce was very considerable. During the days of the great Roman emperors her commercial prosperity was unrivalled. Under the Sultans, all Asia Minor, Syria, Arabia, and even India, as well as Southern Europe, have fed her commerce. And to-day, while her waters are always white with sails and her harbor lined on every side with the smaller vessels of commerce, the spacious harbor itself is filled with steamers bearing every European flag, which come and go almost every hour of every day, bringing the products of European industry, and carrying grain, wool, mohair, fruits, and various products of Turkish manufacture to European ports.—The Galaxy.

Cures Effected by Laughter.

Laughter has often dissipated diseases and preserved life by a sudden effort of nature. We are told that the great Erasmus laughed so heartily at a satirical remark, that he broke a tumor and recovered his health. Jonbert gives two similar instances. Another story is that of a minister who was called on by a poor woman to see if he could save a sick cow. To appease her importunity he went to the barn and repeated as an incantation three times the words, "If she gets well she will get well." Some time after the minister was sick with a tumor in the throat, when the poor woman forced herself into what was supposed to be the chamber of death reciting, "If he gets well he will get well." The re-performance of his own absurd act cured the sick man to burst out in such a hearty laugh that the tumor broke and he soon regained his health.

A patient being very low, the physician, who had ordered a dose of rhubarb, countermanded it, and the medicine was left on the table. A monkey in the room, jumping up, discovered the goblet, and, having tasted, made a terrible grimace. Again putting his tongue to it, he perceived some sweetness of the dissolved manna, while the rhubarb had sunk to the bottom. Thus emboldened he swallowed the whole, but found it such a nauseous potion

after many strange and fantastic grimaces, he ground his teeth in agony, and in a violent fury threw the goblet on the floor. The man burst into repeated peals of laughter, and the recovery of cheerfulness led to health. Another case recorded is that two individuals were lying in one room very sick—one with brain fever and the other with an aggravated case of mumps. They wore so low that watchers were needed every night, and it was thought doubtful if the one sick of the fever would recover. A person was engaged to watch one night, his duty being to wake the nurse whenever it became necessary to take the medicine. In the course of the night both watcher and nurse fell asleep. The man with the mumps lay watching the clock, and saw that it was time to give the fever patient his potion. He was unable to speak loud, or to move any portion of his body; but, seizing a pillow, he managed to strike the watcher in the face with it. Thus suddenly awakened, the watcher sprang from his seat, falling to the floor, and awakening both the nurse and fever patient. The incident struck both sick men as very ludicrous, and they laughed most heartily at it for fifteen or twenty minutes. When the doctor came in the morning, he found the patients vastly improved—said he had never known so sudden a turn, and they both got well.—Selected.

"Growlers."

Some people seem to be in their natural element when they are grumbling, snapping and snarling at everybody and everything; and, if the present does not afford them a text, they make drafts on future possibilities of ill. "Here, Bridget, it is almost daylight, Monday morning; to-morrow is Tuesday, and next day Wednesday—half the week gone, and no washing done yet." But everybody does not feed on green persimmons. We could tell of a missionary who has been in the far West for twenty-one years. For a great part of that time he has lived among Indians, small-pox, fever, agues, and cholera, and, although not yet "fifty," looks prematurely old. For the last year or two his parishioners have paid him about a dollar a month. But does he rave and rail about the "ingratitude of republics?" Very far from it. He looks at the bright side of things, like a philosopher, or, rather, like a practical Christian. "I hardly know what it is to be under the weather, and think myself greatly blessed, even in earthly comforts. My appetite and digestion are good. I weigh about two hundred pounds. I have not had a chill in twenty years, until two months ago; am never confined to bed, except when asleep. I have done a good deal of hard work, and can do a good deal yet, for a kind Providence has prospered me."—From Hall's Journal of Health.

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The Sabbath School Lessons will be continued; and increased attention will be paid to the question of Prohibition now rapidly growing on the public mind. All matters affecting the interests of our Church shall have prompt and careful attention; and the legislation likely to come before next General Assembly will be fairly discussed, and its bearing on the future of Presbyterianism in the Dominion duly examined.

We invite the cordial co-operation of ministers, sisters, and people generally to aid in extending the circulation of the PRESBYTERIAN. Much has been done in this way already; but much still remains undone. Our circulation is now 6,000; there is no good reason why it should not be 16,000. If each of our present subscribers will only send us ANOTHER NAME we shall at once reach 10,000; and then the rest will be a comparatively easy matter. Friends, help us in this particular.

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