

which all successful mining camps pass. The town has an assured future, not one, indeed, of feverish speculation, but of solid industry, a future based upon long pay rolls from good dividend-paying mines. What more can a town ask?

THE ORIENT AND CHRISTIANITY.

A COLONIST reader asks if the object of a recent editorial in this paper was to prove that Christianity existed before Christ. In reply we may say that the object of the articles, of the class to which that referred to, and the present one belong, is not to prove anything, but simply to suggest lines of thought, and incidentally to show that questions which, if thought of at all, are usually regarded as peculiarly fitted only for the pulpit, may be studied with advantage and freely discussed, as other questions are studied and discussed. There is, perhaps, no more pernicious idea than that it is hurtful in a moral way to examine into the evidence bearing upon the early history of mankind and the teachings of the early leaders of the race, because by so doing the narrow notions of medieval theologians may be overturned. In illustration of how the consideration of these questions suggest new, or, at least, unfamiliar lines of thought, take the query of the COLONIST reader above referred to. It opens a wide range of discussion. Here is one phase of it.

In St. Matthew's account of the birth of Christ, reference is made to the visit of certain wise men from the East, who came to Bethlehem, bringing with them gifts, having followed a star which appeared to them in their Eastern home. We are told also that Herod, the king, sent for the wise men and questioned them, after which they returned home. Here the narrative leaves them. Who they were, from what country they came, what their nationality was, why they should have been looking for the birth of Christ, what message they took back with them, why they never took any further interest, so far as appears, in the Babe of Bethlehem—on these and other points, which are of great interest, the narrative is silent. The wise men disappear from the scene as completely as the star which guided them.

It does not help the case in the least to suggest, as some do, that this part of the narrative is a pretty fiction designed to appeal to the imagination of the early Christians. If that is the explanation it only substitutes one mystery for another. For why should it be necessary to appeal to the imagination of those, who knew by their own experience, or at the furthest heard from eye-witnesses of the remarkable career of Christ, by citing wise men from the East as witnesses to prove the supernatural circumstances of His birth? Such a suggestion leaves us still face to face with the fact that somewhere in the East were those whose opinions on the subject of Christ's birth and mission were regarded as matters of supreme importance, and therefore once more there comes up the question as to who they were, where they lived, why their evidence was of value, and what became of them. In other words, who were the Magi, who either came, or are said to have come, to adore the infant Christ, what religious cult did they represent and what has become of them?

The storehouse of Oriental literature has been likened to infinity itself. Until quite recently it has been sealed to Occidental investigation. The Romans, from whom the conceptions of the early Christian church took much of their colour, ignored the Orient and its intellectual achievements. All the world outside the borders of the Roman Empire was barbarian. This word is worthy of brief reference. It implied, in its original signification, nothing more than that the races so styled were radically different from the Romans. To this warlike and aggressive people mankind was divided into two classes—Romans, including under that name the natives of conquered countries, and Barbarians. To the Roman, barbarian thought, culture and civilization was as though it had no existence, except so far as trophies of the latter might serve to enrich the art treasures of the Imperial city. Yet at a time when Virgil, Horace, Juvenal and the other exponents of Roman materialism flourished, and long antecedent to their day, in Persia, India, Thibet and elsewhere in Asia, schools of philosophy existed and a vast literature had been created. It may, indeed, be said that while the Romans were progressing in the arts of material civilization and the development of brute force, the Asiatic races were progressing in the study of the occult. In the order of things it came about that the culture of Christianity and the evolution of the system of ethics and theology surrounding it fell to the lot of the Romans. Paul, the great Apostle to the Gentiles, aimed at the religious conquest of the Roman Empire, and though he did not live to see it accomplished, success finally crowned his stupendous project. Neither he nor any of his contemporaries appear to have given a thought to the East, out of which the Wise Men came.

The early Christian Fathers, knowing nothing of the philosophy of Asia, and educated in the very narrow groove of Roman culture, were unable to regard

the ethical teachings propounded by Jesus of Nazareth in any other light than as they contrasted with grossness of Roman materialism. And yet it is not too much to say that no human evidence testifies so strongly to the eternal truth of the teachings of the Gospels as do the utterances of the Wise Men of the East. Rightly read, with the mists of medieval ecclesiasticism brushed out of our eyes, the testimony of the Wise Men of the East to the divinity of Jesus and his mission is as strong to-day as it was when the Magi made their Western journey to Bethlehem, guided by the strange mysterious star.

A PORTENTOUS OUTLOOK.

Recently the Horticultural Association of Sarcoxie, Missouri, advertised for pickers for its great strawberry fields. The wages paid are small, but several thousand people could get a few weeks' employment. More than twenty thousand people applied for work, which was thousands more than could get work, and the disappointed seekers after the pearly wage are represented as being camped along both sides of a river for ten miles. On one or two occasions recently we have taken occasion to express the hope that the people of Canada will avoid the economic errors into which their Southern neighbors have fallen. One of these has been in connection with their railway system, another has been in permitting the creation of great trusts and monopolies, but the most costly of all has been the economic policy of supporting that business property can be created by Acts of Congress, that people can be taken into a condition of affluence. Nearly the whole of the British Isles is more densely populated than the portion of the State of Missouri referred to; but no one will claim that such an advertisement as this would lead to such a result. A few years ago the Coxie army set out for Washington. It was a startling fact that two or three contingents of the motley host were organized on the very shore of the Pacific Ocean. Thus we are brought face to face with this extraordinary state of things, that a people who in the space of half a century occupied all the vast region between the Mississippi and the great Western Ocean—a region large enough to be the seat of several empires, a region rich enough in natural resources to sustain millions upon millions of inhabitants, so unwisely utilized their great possession that the wave of advancing population scarcely reached the Coast before it was turned back upon itself in despair. The cry of the people is now a cry for a fairer, better, more equitable and noble way of life, that we may grow up to be independent land-owners, but give us work for wages. To-day the cry of the Corezites is the cry of millions of American people. It is a cry to Congress to give them a chance to be some one's servants, working for hire. It is a startling thing to say, but though the war of secession freed five million negro slaves its results, in grievous taxation, grinding monopolies, false ideas of social and political economy, wrong views as to the duty of the government and the loss of individual self-reliance have reduced in more than five million white people to a condition of slavery, infinitely worse in some respects than that under which the negroes suffered. It was good business for the slave-owner to keep his property well-fed and comfortably housed; but the new taskmasters of the American people regard it as good business to keep their slaves near starvation point, for the more eager they are for work the lower the wages with which they will be content. This sounds like the language of exaggeration; but in the slave days in Missouri no such thing was heard of as the incident referred to in the opening sentence of this article.

We are far from desiring to take a pessimistic view of any subject and have great confidence in the recuperative powers of what is called the Anglo-Saxon race, but with 20,000 people besieging a strawberry patch in Missouri for a chance to earn a miserable pittance, and the Senate shaking its fist in the face of the world and leading men crying out for a war with some nation, it makes little difference what, with a tariff framed for the avowed purpose of increasing the taxes so that a portion of the money in circulation may be taken out of the pockets of the people and be locked up permanently in the vaults of the treasury, with one-half the electorate holding the other half in detestation, with nearly all the arable public domain exhausted, it must be conceded that the problem, with which our neighbors have to grapple is one of enormous difficulty. That they will solve it, and solve it satisfactorily, does not admit of a doubt, but the nation will be fortunate if it comes out of the difficulties, now besetting it, without bitter strife. There must be a new revolution. In the interests of civilization, may it be peaceful.

We reprint a paragraph from the Ottawa Journal in regard to the Patrons in Parliament. These gentlemen are finding it impossible to carry out the finely spun theories on which they elected election. This need occasion no surprise. History has a track of repeating itself in this way. The other day the Populist government of the state of Washington was sharply criticized for not practicing what he preached. He frankly answered that it was one thing

to agitate for reforms and another to administer the laws. Responsibility has a sobering effect upon most people. We do not believe that our own Pope, in the legislature would go gunning for capitalists, as they now threaten, if by any accident they could get the government of the province in their hands. They might, however, manage to scare the birds away by sheer awkwardness.

The COLONIST is in receipt of a long letter from Kamloops in regard to the Campbell Creek school. The writer, through inadvertence no doubt, omitted to sign it, but even if it were signed we should hardly feel justified in printing it. The letter is written in a kindly spirit and the writer makes out a case which appears to call for official recognition. We cannot, however, think that the matter is one proper for newspaper discussion. We have reached this conclusion after some hesitation. If the letter states the facts of the case correctly there has been an unfortunate misunderstanding between some well meaning people and no good, would result from widening the breach by giving the subject further publicity. We recommend our correspondent to deal directly with the Educational office.

The Spokane-Review says that Spokane is entitled to the trade of the Fort Steele district. Spokane is entitled to what it can get and no more, but we are loath to say that it shows no end of pluck and energy in striving to get the people of British Columbia to take immediate note of the fact that everything that points to the development in East Kootenay of a business, which will surpass what has made West Kootenay the observed of all observers, and that therefore that they should lay themselves out to get on the ground early. It is not impossible to divert trade after it gets directed into a certain channel, but it is always difficult. Men form business connections, get open accounts, establish credits and have their special needs understood in certain localities, and these things are hard to overcome. Let us keep East Kootenay if we can.

Mr. Laurier does not arise in his wrath one of these days and smite J. W. Bengough, cartoonist, he will show himself to be the very incarnation of meekness, long-suffering and sunny ways in general. Bengough's conception of Laurier is a smug, complacent, goodly-god sort of creature, a sort of grown-up Little Lord Fanny. As a matter of fact the Premier has a strong and noble face, and it is a pity that he should be depicted as a cad. Though Bengough does better with Mr. Blair and Mr. Tarte, he handles none of them like the did Sir John Macdonald. But, then, was there ever a face which lent itself so kindly to the cartoonist's pencil as that of the Old Chieftain?

The Columbian calls for improvement in the navigation of the Harrison river, including the alteration in the railway bridge, which it regards as a serious menace to the safety of steamers. In view of the fact that there is likely to be extensive development in a mining way around Harrison lake, the claim of our contemporary is timely and ought to receive prompt consideration from the Dominion government. The Columbian says "the C.P.R. should never have been allowed to build the bridge as they did." But was not this bridge built by the Dominion government?

It may be of some interest to COLONIST readers to know that this paper was the only one in America to which the Marquis Ito, ex-premier of Japan and author of the Japanese constitution, granted an interview. He declined to see any representatives of the New York press.

We have heard over and over again that Great Britain really cuts no figure in European politics; yet we notice when Lord Salisbury said that Turkey should not have the Thessaly, all the rest of the powers changed their tune on that subject in twenty-four hours.

Health and happiness are relative conditions; at any rate, there can be little happiness without health. To give the body its full measure of strength and energy, the blood should be kept pure and vigorous, by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

NO JUBILEE FOR IRELAND. LONDON, May 28.—Mr. John Dillon, chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party, presided to-day at a meeting of twenty-six Irish members of parliament, who adopted a resolution declaring that the Irish parliamentary party is unable to take part in the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee, "on the ground that the demonstration is not simply commemorative of the private and public virtues of the monarch, but is mainly imperial jubilation over the development of the principles of self-government and

LOOK WELL. FEEL WELL.

Be Well, Strong of Nerve and Light of Heart, with Plenty of Vitality to Keep You Well. When You Begin to Fail in Vigor, You Can Regain It by Using This Great Remedy.



It sends a continuous stream of vital energy into the nervous system for hours at a time. The fountain of animal life is in your nerves. When you are weak your nerves need toning up.

TO MEN who have wasted the vivacious energy of youth by excesses or high living; to men who have found the spark of vitality growing fainter, and who have while yet young in years, found the spirit of mainly power lessening as if age had come on and to all men who feel that their vital forces are slow of action and lacking in the fire of youth, Dr. Sanden's Electric Belt is worth its weight in gold. A means of restoring youthful vigor is priceless. Nothing in this world is worth more to a man who lacks that element. And yet here is a remedy which thousands of men need, and they fail to grasp it because of fear that it might fail. The Belt I received from you some time since has proved to be all you recommended it to be, and I take pleasure in recommending it to my friends. I would like to get another for my brother. Please send No. 6 by express, C.O.D. S. J. Graham, Rossland, B.C. March 3rd, 1897.

DR. A. T. SANDEN, 255 Washington Street, PORTLAND, Oregon.

Dr. Sanden pays the duty on all goods shipped to this Province.

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THE growth of prosperity, wealth, comfort, etc., in which Ireland has not shared. NEW YORK, May 26.—The Press publishes the following: Officers of the Cuban League have decided to attempt the raising of a fund of \$1,000,000 in the United States, believing that this will enable the Cubans to establish their independence. The fund is to be raised in two ways—by donations and by the sale of gold bonds at 6 per cent., payable ten years after the evacuation of Cuba by the Spanish troops.

THIRTY-NINE CROW'S NEST

Three and a Half C.P.R., Which Made Deductions on Three

Road to Penitence, sidized, and Th... in Due C

(From Our Own C

OTTAWA, June 1.—Crow's Nest Pass, a committee on the tariff, general caucus to-morrow, for which the important concessions in rate.

There is talk in the Parliament prorogation, enable most of the m... the Jubilee at their... The house agent... committee on the tariff, the reciprocity clause... The Senate to-day... the Crown congrat... kenzie, Bowen, and... speeches. The Com... address to-morrow... Premier Turner in... to-day on British... D. C. Corbin, of... Norman Maclean, of... Mr. Heine's opposit... Victoria and Kaster... granted.

OTTAWA, June 2.—eral caucus to-day th... attendance of mem... The principal ques... the building of the... railway. Mr. Blair... range of which will... entered into with... construction of 330... from Lethbridge to... Rossland. The b... through to Penitence... independent compa... ment the C.P.R. s... Dominion subsidy... for this subsidy, th... have arranged to... concessions to the... first place they giv... rates west of Port... ment. The r... makes such a... number of articles... stance, a cut of 15... made for this year... for next year, w... As to the arrang... the road westward... not discussed at... of the government... similar subsidy as... in the course of... the Pacific coast.

While there were... and Western memb... stance opposed to... building of the r... that nothing would... year's delay, still... large concessions... Pacific, the arrange... support, so that... proceeded with the... work of construction... with at once. The government... 250,000 acres of... land grant to the... coal land will be... and the government... choice and the rail... choice for each blo... It is understood... reduction of 20... coal oil, 10 per cent... plements, 35 per... a reasonable perc... twine, wire, boilers... bags, bells, anima... poses, etc. All th... on through rates... will be no reduction.

EX SHIP 60 bbls. E 65C. IN Elephant V \$5. Pure White \$6. Pure Mice \$1.5 Roof Paint \$1.0 J. W. ME 70-75 Fort WALL PAPERS, G