

CURRENT EVENTS.

The port of Havana is open to export trade.

Hon. Benj. Butterworth is reported to be dying at Thomasville, Georgia.

Bryan has returned from his Mexican travels, and was banqueted at Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 4.

A general reduction in the wages of cotton-mill operatives in the east is announced to take place about the middle of the month.

The latest Klondike news is that the starvation scare is abating. There is said to be sufficient food at Dawson City to render starvation improbable.

There are prospects of a fusion of a faction of republicans with the democrats in the Maryland legislature, in order to defeat McComas, candidate for United States senator.

A man in Delaware, who has been treated for consumption for nearly ten years, coughed up a tooth the other day which he had swallowed several years ago, and the doctors say that was the cause of the trouble.

Russia is rapidly completing her great Siberian railway, and in the spring will begin the construction of a ship canal from St. Petersburg to Constantinople, a distance of over a thousand miles. These enterprises are no doubt for military purposes.

There are prospects of the dismemberment of the Chinese empire. The great powers are concentrating their naval forces in that vicinity, apparently lining up for a general scramble for a share of the territory. France has seized the island of Hainan, off the south coast of China, without opposition from the Chinese.

REFLECTED RAYS.

If a jackass were to describe the deity, he would represent him with long ears and a tail. Man's ideal is the higher and truer one; he pictures him as somewhat resembling a man.—[Ex.]

By the way, if Ingersoll's pamphlet would lead people to commit suicide, it ought to be read by some orthodox journalists. The loss of some of them would neither eclipse the gaiety of nations nor diminish their average intelligence.—[Free-thinker.]

Science neither robs nor imprisons in this world nor condemns the race to torments hereafter. It seeks for truths. So we would have our churches converted into halls of science, where the true laws of the universe can be taught, and man's relations to those laws be so fully and truthfully set forth, as its "ways are those of pleasantness

and all its paths are peace."—[E. Livezey.]

Ignorance and fear generate and nourish superstition. By how much the more anyone's mind is weak and unenlightened, by so much the stronger will superstitious influence be found to have on it. With a much better prospect of success, therefore, if superstition stand in your way, may you undertake to convince a hundred sensible and well-informed people than ten of such as are ignorant and stupid.—[F. L. Mosheim.]

A bishop writes to the press begging for money to rebuild churches "God destroyed a fortnight ago. That's just like a bishop. No parties oppose God more than they. God wanted the churches destroyed, and destroyed them. He did not hire others to do it, but came himself, in one of his own vehicles, and smashed right and left, and did "according to his will." Now the clergy are going to spite "God", and try to defeat his divine purpose by rebuilding the very places he demolished!

A woman arose in Emanuel church, San Francisco, during services the other Sunday, and dramatically declared that she had a message from God directing the congregation to save the life of Theodore Durrant, now under sentence of death for murdering a girl in that sacred edifice. The woman was Mrs. Alice Hartley, whose sympathy for Durrant may arise from the fact that she herself has killed her man, having slain Senator Foley at Reno some years ago. God moves in a mysterious way to get his messages before the public.—[Truthseeker.]

Note and Comment.

Nature knows no pause in progress and development, and attaches her curse on all inaction.

We may soon expect to hear of great calamities falling upon the Christians up in Michigan, if Jehovah is as jealous as he was in bible times. A healer by the laying-on-of-hands process up there has many Christian patients, notwithstanding the fact that he openly declares that the Devil, and not God, is the source of his miraculous power.

The statement in last week's TORCH that Secularists know more about the bible than those professing to be guided by it, suggests the thought that it is the inquiring spirit that acquires this superior knowledge, which in turn makes the Secularist. Is it not strange that Infidelity should grow with the dissemination of bible knowledge of God? The first nail in God's coffin was driven when his book was placed in the hands of the common people. J. H. M.

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