

Some "Missionary" Notes.

Gin and gospel are the chief imports into Congo in return for rubber and ivory derived therefrom. Sir Charles Dilke stated that the new railway carried nothing but gin up. In our own West Africa colonies the total revenue raised was £595,000, and of this no less than £336,000 was derived from the duty on spirits.

Mr. Thomas G. Shearman, lecturing at Plymouth church, Brooklyn, on the Hawaiian question, said that the missionaries found 130,000 people there, and that they now report only 34,000. The sons of the first missionaries report that the Hawaiians are a filthy, debased and licentious race, unfit to be trusted with their government, but must be kept under control by the Congregational missionaries. This is an admission of how little a generation of Christianity has done for them.

Since the missionaries entered the Sandwich Islands, all the land except 27,000 acres has been divided between the kings and missionaries and their families; the missionaries appropriating four-fifths of all the property of the islands, which they now want to annex to the United States.

The natives wanted twenty-five cents a day to work on the lands the missionaries had robbed them of, which was refused them, and these religious robbers imported Chinese and some of the mongrel races to work the sugar plantations and reduced the natives to abject poverty and starvation. With the importation of the scum of the human race, leprosy, before unknown there, became common and increased rapidly.

On leaving Madagascar, the Anglican Bishop of Antananarivo informed his flock that, after all his labors, the men were greater thieves than ever and the women were more immoral.—[Freethinker.

NEW AND CURIOUS.

Some persons find difficulty in understanding how, since the images of objects looked at are inverted in the eyes, we nevertheless see the objects right side up. Recent experiments by Dr. Stratton indicate that we possess an interesting power of adjustment in this regard. He wore inverting glasses which reversed everything within reach of his eyes, so that for him the ground was above and the sky below, while things on the right were seen on the left and things on the left were seen on the right. Continuously for eight days he wore the glasses, and within that time his bodily movements became adjusted to the new order, so that he could walk the streets without much difficulty.

The year 1897 was called a year of peace; nevertheless there were killed in battle during the year 103,421. The leading places are as follows: In Cuba 24,303 persons; in Africa, 18,205; in China, 15,000; in the Turko-Grecian war 11,839; in Brazil, 10,859; in the Philippine islands, 7,750; and in British India 7024. There were 129,080 slain in 1896. What will be the record of 1898?

A new invention for preventing vessels from sinking after being damaged by collision was recently exhibited. An iron model of a cargo ship was placed in water, after having been loaded with brick. Then a hole, immense in size compared with the miniature vessel, was opened at the side. When the water had risen to a level with the deck, a number of gutta-percha bags, fixed under the deck, were inflated with carbonic acid gas, and the vessel almost immediately began to rise.

"It's curious what a good index to a man's character his laugh is—that is, to a scientific and accurate observer," says a well known mental specialist. "For instance, the person who laughs thus: 'Har, har, har!' is almost always fickle and prone to excitement, though generally frank and honest. 'Her, her, her!' is the laugh of the cynic, more like a sluggish jeer than a joyous chuckle, while those who laugh thus, 'He, he!' are naturally timid; but if you hear 'Ho, ho, ho!' coming from some one a street or so away, he is, you may be sure, a devil-may-care fellow."

Materialism.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

I have just received a letter from Mrs. Bliven asking me kindly to give you, in a few words, my opinion on how souls grow and decay, also my opinion on a future life. But before I give an opinion on either topic, I would first have to find out what a soul is. The bible leaves us entirely in the dark. It speaks of a soul as living, dying, of its being mortal and immortal, of its being material and immaterial, of its sinning and not sinning, of its being saved and lost. I have yet to find the person who has ever been able to tell me what a soul is. My own opinion, and the opinion of the best authorities that I can find, is that it is a myth, and considered in the light of the bible's claim for it, it don't come within the bounds of reason or good sense.

As to a future life, I will say it is something that no living person has ever known anything about or ever will know in this life. One life at a time is all we can live, and if there is a life after this we need not worry about it. We had no knowledge of this life nor preparation to make for it. Neither will we be required to prepare for any other. JOEL M. BERRY.

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