

THE POOR LEPERS OF INDIA

REV DAVID HERRON HAS LIVED AMONG THEM FORTY YEARS.

The Horrors of the Disease—How the Poor Creatures are Cared for By Christian People—Their Mode of Living—Two Forms of the Disease—No Fear of Contracting Leprosy.

Here is a record of work done among the lepers of India from the modest lips of one who has given forty years of his life to these pariahs, thrust out of home by their friends, thrust out of the district by the municipality, neglected by the state. The Rev. David Herron has gone in and out amongst those from whom the meanest creature in India would shrink with unspeakable abhorrence.

HAS TOUCHED THEIR WOUNDS, has cheered them in their agony, has preached the gospel to them, has seen the joy in their poor wasted faces, as they realized the preciousness of divine love.

Mr. Herron went out to India over forty years ago as a missionary from the American Presbyterian Board of Missions. His first station was Dehradun, in the north-west. His business was general mission work, but he saw numbers of lepers, who had been thrust out, for whom no provision had been made, and he set about doing something for them. With the help of a number of civilians and military at the place, an asylum was built, and in this about fifty lepers were cared for. This may be said to have been the beginning of the work, for previous to this neither the central nor the local governments of India did anything for these creatures, who were turned out on the streets, by the wayside, who were found begging in all stages of decay, and who were a menace to society.

For many years Mr. Herron labored here, doing general mission work, but looking after the leper asylum, ministering to the inmates, preaching to them every Sabbath, procuring medical attendance, seeing them decently buried.

His second station was Rawil-Pinde, where a similar work was inaugurated and successfully carried on. About twenty-two years ago there was founded in the city of Dublin a society called the

"MISSION TO LEPERS."

It was wholly undenominational. It appealed to all classes. It did not send out missionaries, but with the money it received, it arranged with the missionaries of all the other societies on the spot, to establish and maintain asylums for the lepers in all the districts in which these were to be found.

Briefly, then, there are at the present moment in India, as the result of the work of this society, forty-one asylums, with about four thousand lepers.

"The work of the society," said Mr. Herron, who is at present in Montreal for the purpose of establishing an auxiliary to the parent society, "is twofold—humanitarian and religious. It cares in the first place for the bodies of the lepers, and it preaches the simple gospel of Christ to them. The lepers are

FOUND AMONG ALL CLASSES.

They make the most pathetic sight that eye could witness. And yet nothing was done for them until we took up the work."

"Is it not extraordinary that the British Government, for reasons of health, would not have insisted upon segregation?"

"Well, nothing was done, and then, you know, an opinion prevailed, backed by the medical faculty, too, that leprosy was neither hereditary nor contagious."

"How do you account for four thousand lepers to-day if the disease is neither?"

"Yes, you might well ask that question. I do not believe it is hereditary, but I am convinced that it is contagious—not greatly so, however. I am strengthened in this opinion by the judgment of Dr. Chill, of London, who has devoted years of study to the subject, upon which he has written voluminously. I consider him the first living authority. He considers the disease mildly contagious. He says that where there is much contact with leprosy,

THERE THE DISEASE INCREASES; where there is but little, it diminishes. He believes that the disease from which Job suffered was leprosy. The bacillus, you know, has been discovered to be confined exclusively to the human system. It is found nowhere else, so that the disease cannot be communicated to the system by food or water. One prolific source of the propagation of the disease was, before the establishment of our asylums, the habit of the children living with their diseased parents. Children are liable to accidents, to wounds, and cuts upon the skin. With their skin abraded, they would catch the disease, and the disease would spread. Our plan has been to take the untainted children from their parents."

"Do you separate the husbands and wives?"

"No, I have always been opposed to that. There is little, if any, danger in permitting them to live together, for a marked symptom of the disease is sterility."

This, then, is how the lepers live;—they come voluntarily to the asylum of the district in which they have lived, glad of its shelter. For, since the inauguration of these establishments, the municipalities have been shamed into giving some local relief. But this is doing out

WITH SUCH INDIFFERENCE

to their sufferings that the poor creatures, hardened into an inflexible stoicism by the callousness of those in authority, come to the asylum with thankfulness. They know they will receive a warm welcome. Each man, or each pair, have two or three simple cooking utensils—a large pot in which they boil their food, and out of which they drink, and a pan upon which they make something like pancakes. They

build a little fireplace out of clay, which soon hardens, and superimpose three little excrescences upon which the pot rests. Then, with twigs, they make their fire, cook their food. They make their own mattresses out of native grass, and the asylum provides one blanket.

"And their daily life?"

"Is like this. They do their bit of cooking; they smoke their pipes; for all the men smoke; they idle about; they (some of them) learn our hymns; and they sleep. You understand that we do not provide the food, but give the money for that purpose. You can get everything you need in India brought to your door. The peddler or huckster comes round, and from him the lepers

BUY THEIR SUPPLIES.

They are shrewd and make better bargains than we could."

"Have you never felt any personal alarm at all, in going in and out amongst them?"

"Oh, no. As long as their skin is whole and wholesome there is no fear. I have touched their wounds; taken them by the hand; gone amongst them all these years. I have seen the doctor's hands covered with the pus from the wounds he would lance for them. To see the thanks in eyes half eaten away with the disease—oh, that was recompense."

"How long, then, does it take the disease to prove fatal?"

"Sometimes ten, sometimes thirty years. It is a gradual wasting away. The fingers, the toes, the nose, the eyes, begin to waste away. Sometimes the disease seems to be at a standstill. I remember one case in which this seemed to be the case. It was said of this patient that he should not be on the asylum's books, that he could still work, etc. One day I saw him sitting on the verandah with the soles of his feet exposed. I noticed a gaping crack in the sole of one of his feet, and I said he will work no more. There are

TWO FORMS OF THE DISEASE, the anesthetic, and the tubercular. In the former there is such death in the parts, that you could put a red hot iron on the hand, and there would be no feeling. In the latter the symptoms are great lumps on the forehead, and this has created the colloquialism of 'the lion's disease.' At times there is no suffering; at others, the agony is extreme. The wounds fill with pus, and the doctor comes and gives relief. Of course it is only temporary. The disease grows; eats its way; sometimes slowly, sometimes rapidly, but always surely."

So the poor creatures make their bits of food, smoke their pipes; chaffer with the pedlars; idle away in the house; sleep—and die at last."

All classes of natives in India eat with their fingers. The knife and fork are unknown. When, however, the fingers of the lepers drop away, when the

HANDS DROP OFF AT THE WRISTS

"Then," says Mr. Herron, simply, "they have to be fed by others."

"And the children of the lepers?"

"Those who are untainted grow up whole. I have only known one instance in which the disease broke out in the case of children taken from their parents. I have known one case, too, of a European, who was attacked. I examined the case closely, but I cannot account for it to this day. The man said he had no contact with the lepers, yet unmistakably the disease fastened itself upon him."

Mr. Herron is the honorary secretary for India of the Mission to Lepers. He is conducting a series of meetings in this country for the purpose of establishing auxiliaries to the parent society. He makes no collections, but the idea is to have, when the branch is formed, a president and treasurer, to the latter of whom contributions can be given. This officer, generally a lady, will, in turn, forward the money to headquarters, which are now in Edinburgh. From thence it will be sent out to the missionaries of each district in which the asylums are situated, and distributed to the needs of the work as these arise.

CONGO CANNIBALS.

They Eat Human Flesh Just as We Eat Beef or Mutton.

Turning to very different matters, we have had a very interesting discussion at the British Association, says a London letter. A certain captain Hinde has been giving his experiences in the matter of cannibalism—a greivous subject which attracted a large audience. It is no new thing to be told that cannibalism flourishes under very different conditions. There are those who say that every country has gone through it at some stage of its existence; but whether this be so or not it is certain that the practice has not always been confined to the savage state.

Readers of Prescott will remember that the Mexicans, who had attained a very high degree of civilization before the Spanish Conquest, were wont to indulge in it on great occasions. The warrior who had come successfully out of a fight with his enemy would invite a party of select friends to discuss the fallen foe. Whether this was so much a gastronomic treat as a practical proof of his valor does not appear, but there is no reason to suppose that the guests were otherwise than pleased with this addition to their every-day bill of fare. Nowadays, however, cannibalism is, so far as we know, only to be found among the ruder and cruder races. Captain Hinde's experiences have been in the basin of the Congo, and according to him human flesh is eaten there as a matter of course, just as we eat beef and mutton.

Canadian Live Stock Trade.

It does not appear that the Canadian live stock trade is likely to find a serious competitor in Australia. On the latest live stock shipment from the Antipodes to England there was a loss of \$20,000, which is attributed to four causes: The unsuitable nature of the stock, excessive freight, and mortality at sea. Ten per cent. of the cattle died and 16 per cent. of the sheep. It is thought that if the voyage can be reduced to forty days the business may be made more promising.

Another Kind.

Twynn—Do you call that girl on the bicycle a new woman?

Triplett—No, she's a pneumatic woman.

THE HOME.

Care of Lamps.

Many of our city friends can by merely touching a button, light a score of electric suns in their homes or by turning a screw and applying a match, bring out the mellow, moonlike radiance of gas; but there are thousands of families who depend on the kerosene lamp for their nightly cheer and brightness, and when these lamps are properly cared for they will give a light not to be despised. A sputtering, flickering flame, a smoked chimney, and a disagreeable odor are not necessary, and do not reflect any credit upon the house-keeper who has them in charge.

We have all read of the common way of toughening glass by heating it in water. The easiest and best way of doing this is as follows: Place it in a tin pail (for protection) and immerse it entirely in your cook stove reservoir, in the morning, when the water is cold. Let it remain throughout the entire day and the following night, during which it will slowly get to have a fire in the stove all day. The reservoir should be full in the morning, so that it will not need replenishing meantime. When removed the next morning, it will be found almost proof against cracking from heat or cold. In cleaning, wash with a soft rag or mop fastened to a stick, and water that has a little soap in it; rinse in clear, warm water, and dry with a soft rag that will leave no lint—old calico is as good as anything.

To insure a clear, mellow light, the brass lamp burner should be kept bright and clean, and this can best be done by immersing in coal oil. If when the lamp is new, and you begin by keeping a tin can of kerosene handy and dropping the burner into it for a few minutes while you wash with the soft woolen rag, you can always keep it bright. An old black burner may be brightened by several days, afterward scoured with brick dust, washed and dried. It is almost impossible to get them as bright as a new burner, but they will be greatly improved by this treatment.

Keep the lamp filled with good oil, and the shade, if it has one, brightly polished. The lamp should be emptied once a week and washed with soapy water, containing a little soda or ammonia. This is necessary to remove the sediment which collects at the bottom, but it should be thoroughly dried before it is refilled. Do not cut the wick, but turning it just above the tube, take a match and shave off the charred end, thus insuring an even flame.

How to Prepare Tripe.

I will tell you how I saw it done more than 50 years ago in my father's house, writes an old housekeeper. My sister did the work and I helped a little. The beef's paunch is carefully emptied, turned inside out and laid in a tub, and the opening sewed up with a large needle and linen thread. Then air-slaked lime is thoroughly sprinkled all over it, special care being taken in sprinkling the honeycomb part. I am not sure how long the tripe lay before it was tried with a broad-bladed knife to see if the lime had loosened the inner lining of the tripe, but I know my sister watched it and as soon as it scraped white and nice looking, it was scraped thoroughly, rinsed several times and set to soak over night in plenty of water with a handful of salt in it. I remember seeing my sister add more lime sometimes—perhaps I am sure she was careful to cleanse it just as soon as it was loosened. It would "set" if left too long. I think the next morning the stiches were cut and care was taken to see if any part had been neglected, and then the knife was used again, the tripe being cut in pieces of the size to suit. The soaking is kept up until one's judgment tells one that it is properly cleansed and ready for cooking.

The process is not a pleasant one by any means, and the lime is hard on the hands, but something can be done to help by a pair of loose gloves. If this is tried I wish the result might be reported. In the days of which I speak we made "rol-a-chees" of the tripe and beef, but that is a custom which has gone out of date. It is an appetizing dish on a cold winter day.

Possibilities of Onions.

Baked Onions.—Poil in salted water until almost tender. Lift out and lay in a baking pan; salt and pepper to suit the palate and on each put a bit of butter. Bake in a hot oven 15 to 20 minutes. When tender and brown serve on a hot dish.

Glazed Onions.—Butter a saucepan and lay in some onions, as nearly of a size as possible. Pour in meat stock, gravy or water to nearly cover the onions, and two lumps of sugar. Boil briskly until the liquid is reduced one-half, then draw to the back of the stove and allow to simmer slowly until the gravy is quite thick. Add salt and pepper.

Onion Tart.—Peel and slice the onions thinly. Line a dish with pastry, place a layer of onions in the bottom, sprinkle over pepper, salt, a little flour, then more onions, then salt and pepper, until the dish is full. Pour over some sweet cream or butter and milk and cover with pastry; bake until the onions are tender. This is a delicious accompaniment to baked or boiled meats. Another method is to use alternate layers of sliced onions and potatoes, both raw, season with salt, pepper, butter, and pour over a little milk or water and bake until done. No pastry is used in the latter recipe. Both should be served very hot.

Onion Sauce.—This is nice to serve with warmed-over meats. Slice and fry three or four onions in a large spoonful of butter, stirring frequently so they will not burn. When nicely browned add a large spoonful of flour and a pint of gravy or stock. Simmer gently for a few moments, add salt and pepper and strain. If more flavoring is liked add a tablespoonful of mushroom ketchup, a little pepper sauce or Worcestershire.

Stuffed Onions.—Peel medium-sized onions and punch out the hearts. Mince a little beef or mutton, parsley and bread crumbs. Beat with an egg, salt and pepper. Stuff the onions with this, and lay in a baking dish with a little gravy. Bake until the onions are tender and serve very hot. Baste the onions frequently to prevent burning.

Onion Cream Soup.—Slice four onions very thin, fry to a pale brown color in a tablespoonful of butter, add 3 tablespoonfuls flour and 3 pints milk, a little salt and pepper, 1-2 teaspoonful sugar and a blade of mace. Cook slowly one hour and strain over 2 eggs beaten up lightly with a cup of cream. Do not heat after adding the eggs or it will curdle. Serve with croutons of bread.

NEW ZEALAND TRADE.

A Draft Treaty of Commerce Drawn Up by Canadian and New Zealand Representatives.

In the course of his budget speech the Hon. J. G. Ward, colonial treasurer for New Zealand, quoted the memorandum drawn up and signed jointly by himself on behalf of the New Zealand Government, and Sir Mackenzie Bowell and the Hon. G. E. Foster, on behalf of the Canadian Government, respecting the trade relations of the two colonies. Mr. Ward spoke highly of the possibilities of trade under this agreement, which only now awaits the sanction of the legislatures of each colony. It is styled a "Memorandum respecting improved commercial relations and reciprocal tariff regulations, as agreed upon in conference, held informally in Ottawa, 10th June, 1895, between Sir Mackenzie Bowell, premier, etc., and the Hon. G. E. Foster, finance minister, etc., as representing Canadian interests, and the Hon. J. G. Ward, treasurer, postmaster-general, etc., as representing New Zealand interests—subject to the approval of the Governments and Legislatures of Canada and New Zealand respectively," and runs thus:—

The following named articles, when the produce or manufacture of New Zealand and imported direct therefrom into Canada, and when the produce or manufacture of Canada and imported direct therefrom into New Zealand, to be admitted in both cases free of customs duties, viz:—

1. Animals (live) excepting hogs.
2. Frozen or fresh meats.
3. Bacon and hams.
4. Fish.
5. Hides.
6. Milk (condensed or preserved).
7. Wool, and manufactures composed wholly or in part thereof—viz., blankets, flannels, tweeds and rugs.
8. Flax (Phormium).
9. Barley.
10. Oats.
11. Wheat and wheat flour.
12. Seeds.
13. Coal.
14. Kerosene oil (petroleum).
15. Safes.
16. Organs and pianofortes.
17. Tallow.
18. Lumber and timber, planks, boards and dimension stuffs, rough or manufactured, including doors, sashes and blinds.
19. Binder twine.

The following articles, when imported under like conditions and in like manner to receive in both countries preferential tariff treatment as follows, viz:—

1. Agricultural implements, including all axes, hatchets, scythes, forks, rakes, hoes, shovels and spades, if made dutiable under New Zealand general tariff, to be free.
2. Twines of all kinds, ropes and cordage, a rate equal to 2 1-2 per cent. ad valorem less than the general tariff rates current at date of importation.
3. Leather, a rate equal to 10 per cent. off the rate current at date of importation.
4. Boots and shoes, harness and saddlery, at 17 1-2 per cent. ad valorem, or, in the case of the general tariff rate in both countries be 25 per cent., the preferential rate to be 20 per cent.
5. Furniture at 20 per cent., ad valorem.

Mackenzie Bowell,
George E. Foster,
J. G. Ward,
Colonial Treasurer,
New Zealand.

UNITED STATES WATER FAMINE.

Whole Towns in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia Without Water.

A special from Cincinnati says:—If there is not a heavy, persistent rain in this section of the United States, comprising a portion of Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia, the losses will ruin hundreds of persons.

There has been no rain for weeks and water is almost unknown, except in a few holes in the Scioto and Miami, and the Ohio is only two feet six inches in the channel. In the southern part of Ohio, along the line of the Cincinnati, Portsmouth & Virginia Railroad, the water famine is so great that that road has donated two tank trains to haul water to the people. A score of small towns are without a drop, and fires are not tolerated. The reports from Kentucky describe much the same condition for lack of water, which has in some cases to be hauled for miles. The Ohio river cannot float a single boat. At every landing spot from Pomeroy, O., 450 miles to Louisville, Ky., all sorts of produce is rotting in the sun of day and the frosts of night.

A competent river man said in the space named on the river two million bushels of apples, a half million of cabbages, a quarter of a million bushels of potatoes, untold quantities of butter, eggs and other farm produce are spoiled. All of the little stores are short of groceries, and the losses to the steamer, to the produce dealers, shippers and buyers exceeds \$1,000,000.

Quickly Pacified.

Husband (furiously)—Here's my best meerschaum pipe broken! How in the name of sense did that happen?

Wife—I don't know except that when I got up this morning I found your meerschaum pipe in the front hall, and your overshoes on the parlor mantel-piece.

Husband (mildly)—Oh, well accidents will happen. I presume there has been an earthquake or something.

EUROPEAN WAR CLOUD.

IS THERE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN FRANCE AND RUSSIA?

France Backing Up Russia in China and Japan—Indian Government Removes French Officials in Burmah—England's Good Work in Egypt—Increase of Poverty Among the Russian Peasantry.

There is some concern in England respecting the apparent alliance—expressed or understood—between France and Russia. A variety of circumstances, notably the behaviour of the Czar's military representative at and subsequent to the French reviews, show that to some extent such an alliance exists. It is certain that the speeches and toasts of the Russian general would not have passed unrebuked had such an alliance not existed. It is believed by some competent judges that practically the agreement between the two powers is to the effect that in consideration of France backing up Russia in China, Japan, and also generally, the Czar will befriend France upon the questions arising between her and England, and will also support her if attacked. France wishes England to evacuate Egypt, and also to recognize her border encroachment on the Upper Mekong in Burmah. Some of the intruding French officials have been forcibly removed by the Indian Government, and the British Cabinet has officially protested and refused to recognize the French encroachments in opposition to treaties. These irritating questions show the wisdom of the British policy of having a buffer state between the French and English territories, which, unfortunately, the French have practically got rid of. As all intelligent people know, England does not derive

THE SLIGHTEST GAIN

from the presence of her soldiers in Egypt. Her principal reason for staying is to safeguard her reforms—introduced in spite of French opposition—from being wantonly destroyed by the caprice of the Khedive, and to satisfy his horde of hungry courtiers. England has vastly improved the condition of the natives, lightened taxation, improved the revenue and credit, and abolished many grievous oppressions. There has been no other instance in any country of such vast ameliorations having been effected in spite of such strong opposition—internal and external—in such a brief space of time. To quit Egypt would be to abandon it to the vile horde of plunderers and oppressors who formerly thrived upon its misery. It would also imperil and diminish the value of the enormous investments of Europeans, the French themselves being large investors. The mere fact of announcing that England would withdraw would reduce by one-half the value of all stocks and investments, and the numerous French sufferers would protest as loudly as the others.

There is good reason to believe that Russia uses France as a mere pawn, the latter lending money and exerting influence in exchange for verbal promises, which, when closely examined, mean very little. The French take great pains to proclaim the alliance, such as it is, and thus the Czar can in diplomacy exhibit her as adding to his own

ENORMOUS STRENGTH. While he is not bound by any formal treaty. The truth is most likely this: Russia has promised that if France is wantonly attacked—which no one dreams of doing—she will side with her and that France engages to back up Russia generally. Thus Russia is not bound to sustain France in any offensive war, but France is practically bound if Russia breaks the peace of Europe. It is in the highest degree unlikely that the Czar would assist France in an offensive war against Germany, apart from all questions of kinship, for by so doing he would have everything to lose and nothing to gain. For in such a war Germany would have strong allies. Even if the Czar—his wife is a granddaughter of our Queen—were inclined for a wanton war, which is opposed to all known evidence, the internal condition of Russia is so serious that practically it is out of the question. The majority of the intelligent classes are so discontented by the neglect of sorely needed home reforms that the Nihilist organization has revived, and once more—as during the last nineteen years—the Czar's life is imperilled.

Prince Krapotkin has in the Nineteenth Century for September temperately described the rapid increase of poverty among the Russian Peasantry, the exact converse of what is happening in Egypt under British guardianship. This is mainly a consequence of

IGNORING ECONOMIC LAWS, for it is certain that so long as the land is held in common without individual ownership there must be deterioration. No man will manure or improve land which two or three years hence another one will have. He quotes authorities to show that in numerous cases the rent and taxes are far higher than what can be obtained from the allotted land under the present modes of culture, and that during part of the year vast numbers wander in search of work or to beg. As if to irritate the intelligent classes, man and woman who displease the police can now be sent to Siberia without even a mock trial. His temperately written facts explain the revival of Nihilism in Russia. The murder of Stambouloff, the ex-Premier of Bulgaria, by unofficial Russian agents has set a frightful example to the Nihilists, for at the time he was surrounded by guards, nearly all of whom had been corrupted. Considering all things, it is reasonably certain that there will be no war, for England, as a last resource can join the triple alliance, and the enormous strength of the four countries would forbid any such folly. All who wish well to France should pray for peace, for if there were war, Russia as in the case of others, would abandon her. In 1807 she seized and kept territory belonging to her ally, and in 1878 she did the like.

New South Wales owns 2,182 miles of railway, and New Zealand in 1892 owned 672 miles.