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OVER LAND AND SEA.

Dr. Dawson Burns contributed to the *Times*, London an admirable letter on the nation's drink bill for 1895, which will doubtless be reprinted and circulated on a large scale. The bill shows an increase of £3,676,984 over the figures for 1894, the huge total for 1895 being £142,414,812. It may be noted that this increase of drink expenditure is more than double the annual income of all the missionary societies of the nation. Considering the drink bill per head of the population, the average expenditure for last year was £3 12s 9¼d., or £18 3s 10¼d., for every family of five persons, compared with £3 11s. 6½d. and £17 17s. 8½d. in 1894.

London's annual budget, as nearly as I am able to estimate it, for taking care of between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 of people is as follows: Cost of lighting, \$26,000,000; water supply, \$10,000,000; police, \$9,500,000; schools, \$10,000,000; streets, \$10,000,000; paupers, \$12,000,000; private charities and hospitals of all kinds, \$20,000,000; health, \$3,500,000; fire protection, \$650,000; interest on debt, \$5,000,000; total, \$107,150,000. Of an offset for this enormous expenditure we have an income that when compared with the rest of England is simply gigantic. The assessed rental value of houses for London is upward of \$180,000,000, nearly 30 per cent. of the total for all England; net profits of trades or professions, \$265,000,000, or over 41 per cent. In the schedules relating to particular properties and public companies, London represents nearly 60 per cent, or a total of \$445,000,000, and in salaries and fees nearly 70 per cent, or \$115,000,000, a total annual income exceeding \$130,000,000. Perhaps these astounding totals representing incomes may give American readers some idea of the value of earnings that pour annually into the coffers of this great centre of the world's wealth, trade and commerce. The items of expense given in the table above only represent the more striking expenditures. It would be safe to estimate the total cost in round figures, say at \$110,000,000. Nearly a quarter of this goes for furnishing artificial light; another quarter for pauperism and charities. London's gas bill represents nearly one-third the amount expended for gas by the United Kingdom. Nor is the item of pauperism and charities large when we bear in mind the appalling fact that twenty-seven out of every hundred deaths in this aggregation of humanity occur in public institutions. Every fourth person you meet on the crowded, bustling thoroughfares of living London dies a pauper, an inmate of a hospital or of a lunatic asylum.

A new field awaits the tourist in Japan. The Rev. Walter Weston, in a lecture before the Glasgow branch of the Scottish Geographical Society, described a mountain range which he calls "The Japanese Alps." Its length was about a hundred miles, and one of the most remarkable features in connection with it was the extent and variety of its flora. A curious climatic

phenomenon had resulted from the peculiar position of the range. On the west side of it the valleys were deep in snow, and the sky obscured with a dark valley of clouds. On the east for months together there was a bright sky, and comparatively little snow covered the ground. The picturesqueness of the valleys and the magnificence of the forests of the Japanese Alps surpassed, in his opinion, anything of the sort he had seen in all his Alpine wanderings in Europe.

About fifteen years ago a party of Americans founded a colony in Jerusalem. This has continued with varying success, though a number have returned to this country. Last week a party of seventy seven sailed from Philadelphia to join the colony. It is expected that a third party will be organized soon, so that in a few months one hundred recruits will be ready to join the main body at Jerusalem.

The Congregationalist remarks that the Jews at last have their revenge on Babylon. Nearly 2,500 years ago Babylon took the whole nation into captivity, but two Jews of Bagdad have now bought all that is left of Babylon.

England has a great many citizens of wealth and handsome incomes. The income tax reports recently published show that 66 Englishmen enjoy incomes above \$300,000, and that 2000 more have incomes ranging downward from that to \$50,000. Those who have \$25,000 to \$50,000 a year exceed 3000 in number, 5000 are taxed on incomes of \$10,000 to \$15,000, and nearly 15,000 are reported as enjoying annuities of from \$5000 to 10,000.

The total number of Protestants in France, according to the latest official year book, is 639,825, which includes 10,789 Protestants in Algiers. The reformed church of France comprises 101 consistories, 1,282 parishes, 638 pastors paid by the state, and 540,483 members. The Lutheran Church numbers six consistories, 48 parishes, 62 pastors and 77,553 members. Algiers has 3 Protestant consistories 16 parishes and 20 pastors.

From the report of the fourteenth annual meeting of the Federal Life Assurance Company, held at the head office, at Hamilton, it will be seen that the company has had a most satisfactory year's business. The directors have been able to place before the shareholders figures which show that notwithstanding the depression of trade, which has told so severely on similar institutions, the affairs of this company are such as to call forth the satisfaction of all concerned. The volume of business has been considerable, and in the hands of the able management of the officers and directors there is every reason to look forward to a substantial increase in the near future.