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A Hero. The death of Barisch, the assistant in the bacterial establishment of Professor Nothnagle, followed by the death of Dr. Müller, who attended him, has almost created a plague panic in Vienna. Herr Barisch contracted the Bubonic plague while engaged in cultivating the plague bacillus for the purpose of scientific investigation. His duties in the Nothnagle establishment were to clean and feed the rabbits, rats and guinea pigs who were the subjects of experimental inoculation. Every precaution was taken in the burial of his body, it having been soaked in disinfectants and placed in a double metal coffin, carefully soldered. All the animals which had been made the subjects of experiment with the plague bacillus have also been killed and cremated. Dr. Müller, who attended Herr Barisch, owes his death to his fearless devotion to his patient. Not only did he assiduously attend and examine him, noting down a careful description of the case from hour to hour, but he even scraped the walls of the sick room in order to prove the presence of bacilli, utterly regardless of the danger due to himself. When he was attacked, he wrote down a complete diagnosis of his own condition, analyzing the changes from hour to hour, and pasting them on the window, until pain and fever compelled him to stop. He died a martyr to science, sacrificing his life for the good of his fellows. The Bubonic plague is that disease which has taken so many lives at Bombay, and medical science is still baffled in its treatment.

The World's Creditor. Money has been called "the sinews of war" and the country that has the largest and fullest purse is almost sure to win in any great conflict. In these times when war is in the air, and it looks as if the nations of the earth were on the eve of events likely to try their strength and powers of endurance, it may be worth while to note where Britain stands in the money markets of the world. The total amount which she has in foreign investments is something marvellous. There is scarcely a country on the globe, civilized or uncivilized, where English capital is not sunk in some investment. It is calculated that the sum lost by England to foreign governments and municipalities, and invested in all sorts of industrial enterprises, amounts to little short of £40,000,000 a year, or about one pound per head of the population. She has about £110,000,000 invested in land and mortgage companies. She has large financial interests in railways in India, China, Australia, Canada, various European, African and South American countries, and even in the wealthy United States, amounting to about £420,000,000. In those countries where the expenditures exceed the income, if a loan is needed, England is the place where it is sought. Foreign countries and many of her colonies have borrowed from her the enormous sum of nearly £800,000,000. In foreign and colonial banks she has invested about £110,000,000, and it is supposed that nigh on to £270,000,000 of her capital has been sunk in private investments, so that in addition to having more money at home than she knows what to do with, England has £1,850,000,000 to her credit abroad. Britain is the world's greatest creditor.

Bahr-el-Ghazel. This is an old province of the Egyptian Soudan. It is the crux of the contention between the British and the French. It lies south of Khartoum and north of Equatoria. In size, it is about five times as big as England and is covered with forests and mountains, between which lie many rich and fertile valleys, liable to inundation. It includes the

larger portion of the basin watered by the Bahr (or river) Ghazel which, with its several tributaries, forms a labyrinth of streams. Fashoda is situated on the Nile proper, a little to the north of this network of rivers, and hence commands access to them all. It is the capital of the Shilluk country and it was annexed to Egypt nearly half a century ago. This territory is coveted by the French because it opens a possible route for them from their Congo colony on the west to their possessions on the Red Sea. Besides it would give them an outlet on the Nile, for which they are most anxious. This information is necessary in order to understand the present contention between Britain and France. With a map of Africa it will readily be seen that if French views prevail all the labor and toil of England is neutralized. If Egypt is to become what she ought to be from her position and resources, it is necessary for her prosperity that she have, and retain, control of the Nile from its mouth to its source, and the countries adjacent. Besides it is the policy of British statesmen to have a through line in Africa from Egypt to Cape Colony. To make this sure, if for no other reason, France must get out of Fashoda. The temper of the British people would make this a necessity. Besides, as the N. Y. Tribune has well said, "Great Britain regards herself as holding an invincible hand. Morally, her position with regard to the Upper Nile seems above reproach. Legally, it has been reaffirmed by the testimony and argument of France herself. Physically, she is in actual possession, and is able to retain possession." France will withdraw and there will be no war.

Thibet. Thibet has long been known as the hermit kingdom. It has been the last country of the world to open its gates to the gospel. Many efforts have been made by earnest missionaries but without success. Rev. D. W. Le Lacheur, a missionary connected with the Christian Alliance of New York, told on Tuesday of last week to a St. John audience some of his experiences in his endeavor to plant the cross of Jesus Christ in this far-off mysterious land. Two years ago a Mr. Christie, another of the Alliance missionaries had met the Great Lama of Eastern Thibet and had presented him with a Bible in the native language. Upon the missionaries' arrival at the Brang, a Buddhist centre of worship, the Lama met Mr. Christie on the street and by him was introduced to Mr. Le Lacheur. He soon made it evident that these pioneers were welcome visitors by furnishing them with a passport in his own writing sealed by the three seals of the empire. With this document in their possession they would be received anywhere in the kingdom. Already two mission stations are established and several of the Buddhist priests have doffed their priestly robes and donned the dress of the natives, having embraced Christianity. The story of this pioneer missionary is in striking contrast with that of the traveller Lander, who tells of the horrible cruelties inflicted upon him while endeavoring to enter this hitherto forbidden and unknown land. Mr. Le Lacheur ascribes his success to the grace and power of God,—to Him who has all hearts at His disposal. And we believe that he is right.

The friends of the "Forward Movement" will be glad to learn that the amount pledged has reached the sum of \$56,000, within \$4,000 of the amount which Dr. Trotter set out to raise. This is cheering. The balance will come, must come. Let every brother and sister who has not yet contributed to this Fund give his name to his pastor, or if his church is pastorless, forward to Dr. Trotter, Wolfville, N. S., his name and the amount he thinks that he can give, to be payable in four annual instalments, and the work will be done.

Book Notices

A Commentary on the Sunday School Lessons for 1899. By F. N. and M. A. Peloubet. Illustrated. Cloth, \$1.25. Publishers, W. A. Wilde & Co., Boston and Chicago.

This commentary is again to the front. It is fully the equal of any of its predecessors. "Peloubet's Notes" have been before the public for the last twenty-five years and have been steadily gaining in popular favor, as is shown by its increasing yearly sales. For the Sunday School worker it is equal to the best and inferior to few, if any. It is a *vide mecum* for him in his work. There is every thing he needs for the exposition of the lessons and all in one book. Sometimes there may be more than he needs. For convenience it cannot be excelled. The teacher in Baptist Sunday Schools will want to consult the "Helps" prepared by his own denominations, but Peloubet's "Select Notes" for 1899 deserves a place in the library of every Sunday School teacher who wants to be thoroughly furnished for his high office.

The Educational Review series of Leaflets on Canadian History has been planned with the special object of giving detailed account of the leading events and persons in Canadian history. The series will present from historians of the past and from original documents, valuable records that are inaccessible to students and schools with limited library privileges. There will be nearly one hundred different topics presented in this series by leading writers in Canada and the United States. The Leaflets, of thirty pages each, will be issued quarterly, until the series of twelve numbers is complete. The subscription price for the series is one dollar. Single copies ten cents. In clubs of ten or more to one address, five cents each. Address—Educational Review, St. John, N. B. The publisher is G. U. Hay, M. A., whose name is a sufficient guarantee of the merits of the work.

"Converse with the King." This is the title of a book edited by Rev. W. H. Porter, pastor of one of the Baptist churches in the City of Branford, Ontario, well and favorably known in these provinces, where he spent the earlier years of his ministry. The volume has reached its third edition, revised and improved. Price, postpaid, \$1.00. In the preface of the work it is stated that "the object of such a book is not to supercede Bible study, but to entice to it; to give to weary toilers in their spare moments the results of days and weeks of labor." It is admirably adapted for private devotion and family worship. We wish for the author a large sale. It is worthy of a place in every home in the land.

A volume of poems entitled "A Treasury of Canadian Verse," is to be published early in the coming year. It is in press now, and is to be issued simultaneously in the United States, Canada and Great Britain. The compiler and editor of this work is Theodore H. Rand, D. C. L., himself a foremost Canadian poet. It will be the first worthy presentation in compact form of Canadian poetic literature. A work of such a nature, under the supervision of Dr. Rand, has a host of warm personal friends in these provinces, who admire him for what he is and for what he has done. We bespeak a most cordial welcome for "A Treasury of Canadian Verse."

The leading features of the American Monthly Review of Reviews for November are: the editorial comment on the State and Congressional campaigns (illustrated); an illustrated account of the work of the "Y. M. C. A." in connection with the army and navy during the war with Spain, by Albert Shaw; an article on "The Newspaper Correspondents in the War," with numerous portraits; Mr. Creelman's own story of his Santiago adventures; "Ouida's" "Impeachment of Modern Italy," with Signor Vecchia's reply; "The Nicaragua Canal in the Light of Present Politics," by Prof. L. M. Keasbey; and "The Nicaragua Canal and Our Commercial Interests," by Dr. Emory R. Johnson.

The November Record of Christian Work contains a number of unusually interesting and suggestive articles for the Bible student and the Christian worker. Mr. Robert E. Speer, the well-known Bible teacher and Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, contributes an article on "Practical Suggestions for Home Bible Study." Dr. J. R. Miller writes on "The Beatitude of Purity" in his series of articles, and Rev. Kenneth Mackenzie, Jr., contributes a specially interesting article on "The Transfiguration." The regular departments of the magazine are unusually strong, being edited by such men as Rev. C. I. Scofield, Rev. R. A. Torrey, D. L. Moody and D. W. Whittle.