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Note and Comment.

There has been a steady and regrettable falling off in the attendance of children at church, for a considerable time, and this has caused not a little comment and complaint. The Outlook comes very near the pith of the whole trouble when it says that "the prime cause of the childless church is the prayerless home." We greatly need a genuine revival of old-fashioned home piety and prayerfulness, says the Canadian Baptist.

A well-equipped eye dispensary will soon be travelling through the length and breadth of Egypt. Sir Ernest Cassel provided for this by a recent gift of about \$100,000, and the Sanitary Department of the Egyptian government adopted the suggestion as the best means of carrying out the wishes of the donor. The dispensary will be supplied with all the most modern and approved apparatus, and will be housed in a tent, which will be moved from place to place as found desirable.

Rev. Dr. Grant, of Trinidad, has returned to Nova Scotia for a period to assist in removing the \$14,000 debt incurred by the Eastern section of the Foreign Mission Committee. Before leaving San Fernando Dr. Grant was presented with a purse and an address. His labors in Trinidad for 32 years have been greatly blessed. He is pastor of a self-supporting church of converts. Sabbath Schools, day schools, the college, and other institutions testify of what he and his wife and other members of his family have done for the mission. Dr. Grant is a native of Picton, N. S.

The citizens of Halifax did the right thing a few days ago in making the handsome present of a gold watch to Rev. Dr. Gordon, who is on the eve of removing his family from that city to Kingston. He carries with him to the Principalship of Queen's University the best wishes of the people irrespective of class, creed or politics. He was a good citizen in Halifax, and like his predecessor in Queen's he will be a good citizen in Kingston.

Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi, of Tokyo, Japan, has just been re-elected president of the lower house of the Japanese Parliament, which corresponds to our House of Commons. He is an elder in the Presbyterian Church. During the canvass for election his friends urged him, as a matter of policy, to conceal the fact that he is a Christian and a Presbyterian, lest it restrain heathen men from voting for him. He refused to conceal it, and he was elected. Prior to the assembling of the Parliament, he continued his practice of assembling friends in his home to hear about Christianity. And he was elected to the presidency of the Chamber. Later he accepted the presidency of a Christian college and when criticised for so doing made this reply: "If I had not been a believer in God it is probable that I should long ago have left the sphere of politics and become a recluse. I remain in the political world because I believe it is God's will I should. I am not a believer in men's hiding their beliefs or in their pretending to believe what at

heart they reject. Some say it is impossible to enter the political arena without becoming defiled. . . . Sanctity that cannot survive contact with the world is not of much value. We cannot live to ourselves." It will be a good thing for Canada when her public men can make so frank an avowal of their Christianity.

"All friends of Christianity in India must rejoice at the appointment of Sir Andrew Fraser as lieutenant governor of Bengal. Says the Christian Intelligencer: He has been known throughout his service as a consistent confessor of his religion, living his official life keenly, hard-working in all posts of the service in which he has been employed, and combining in an exemplary manner the characters of a hard-headed, practical administrator, and a humble-minded, outspoken Christian. The advancement of such an officer does credit to the impartiality of the viceroy."

The American Bible Society has now been in existence eighty-eight years, and during that time its total issues amounted to 72,670,783 copies of the Word of God. In an article on this society the Herald and Presbyter gives the following interesting paragraph: "Voltaire, who died in 1777, prophesied that within a hundred years the Bible would be an unknown book. The Bible, which in Voltaire's day existed in only thirty-eight tongues, is now being read, in whole or in part, in over four hundred. One hundred and fifty of these languages were for the first time reduced to writing by Bible translators."

"I stick to the Bible and the people come," said Dr. Torrey in telling of his evangelistic trip around the world. He sums up his experience in preaching in these few lines: "I believe in three things, Prayer, the Atonement, Spiritual Regeneration. Prayer means power with God; the Atonement means power with sinful men and women, poor guilty souls; and spiritual Regeneration means power over a corrupt nature; it breaks the power of sin." The gospel more than ever it has been is still the power of God and the wisdom of God to lost sinners of every race and clime.

Recently an attempt was made in the House of Lords to abolish the sovereign's declaration against the Roman Catholic religion. Archbishop Davidson and the Duke of Devonshire pointed out that the declaration must be definitely against Romanism to preserve the Protestantism of the throne, but need not be worded so as to give offence to Roman Catholics. The Government were prepared to modify the wording some time ago, but the Roman Catholic peers said that would not satisfy them, the Declaration must be altogether abolished, thus defeating the Government's intention. It is impossible to declare against Romanism without offending Romanists to some extent; yet the Duke of Norfolk had the candour to admit that a Protestant nation is quite warranted in guarding the Protestantism of the Throne. The House of Lords decided by a large majority to retain the Royal Declaration.

Someone has said that ours is an age when everyone wishes to reform the world, but no one thinks of reforming himself. We must begin with ourselves.—James Stalker, D.D.

An advance is being made by the United States Government in the matter of temperance. At Bremerton, Wash., the location of the Puget Sound navy yard, a lot of low dives corrupted the sailors who went ashore. When the city council refused to abate the nuisance, the Secretary of the Navy telegraphed to the commander of the Pacific squadron not to put in to Bremerton. The city council speedily abated the nuisance. At the Capitol in Washington the sale of liquor has been abolished.—At the New York Immigrant Station no sales of liquor are allowed.—In the Philippine Islands no sale of liquor is to be allowed within two miles of any military camp.—These things indicate progress.

"What results does Catholicism produce when she has everything her own way?" asks Christian Life, and submits the answer based on the experience of Ecuador, the most Catholic portion of our globe. "In no other part of the world have the Jesuits had so much influence. No Protestant can vote as a parliamentary elector. There are six Romanist churches or chapels for every thousand of the inhabitants; one acre in every four is church property; one person in every ten is a priest; or a monk or a nun; and two hundred and seventy-two days in the three hundred and sixty-five are kept as ecclesiastical days of observance, either as feasts or fasts. And what have been the social results? Less than eight per cent. of the people can read; the national debt has paid no interest for thirty years past; and the Minister of the Interior, in his official report to Congress, says: "The historical tradition of our constitutional politics is—incessant revolutions." The Jesuits appear to be the stormy petrels of Roman Catholicism in all Catholic countries.

Lord Rosebery who, during his chairmanship of the London County Council, rendered that body and the city over which it rules signal service, has again proven the deep interest he takes in its concerns. He has just laid before the Council a scheme for the establishment in London of an institution similar to the great College of Applied Science at Charlottenburg, Germany, and promised to act as chairman of a body of trustees appointed to carry out the proposal. His Lordship thinks it little short of a scandal that able and ambitious young Englishmen, desirous of equipping themselves with the most perfect technical training. The Belfast Witness says: "Most people will agree with Lord Rosebery" and adds: "We are now beginning to see and to feel the cost of our apathy in regard to the scientific training of the young, and it is high time that we should. This scheme, which is already supported strongly by financiers, is likely to prove the beginning of a general movement throughout the United Kingdom for the overtaking of lost ground."