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Note and Comment.

Bibles are so largely sought for by the Japanese that they are now kept on sale in all the prominent bookstores in Japan.

The New York Sun says there is a great development of the butter industry in Russian Siberia, and already it has come into prominence in Northwestern Europe. In the not distant by and by it may compete with Danish and Canadian butter in Great Britain.

Speaking of the medicinal value of pineapple juice, a London G. B. doctor says the reputation of that fruit has suffered, among other reasons, from the facts that far too much is eaten at a time, and that the fibrous part is swallowed as well as the juice. To obtain its full digestive value, one quadrant of a slice half an inch thick is ample for one meal. It should be well masticated and the fibrous portion should be rejected. It must not be cooked, and should be just ripe. The preserved form has practically no digestive power.

A summer school for Sunday School teachers is to be held at the Presbyterian College, Halifax, N. S., July 14 to 24. Prof. Pease, of the Bible Normal College, Hartford, Conn., is to give addresses on topics connected with Sabbath School work. In addition lectures will be delivered covering the periods of the S. S. lessons for the next year—The Kingdom of Israel under Saul, David and Solomon, and the life of Christ. Also much attention will be devoted to missionary topics, Work among boys, and other practical matters.

In connection with Sabbath school lessons and teaching the Christian Observer believes that it would be a good thing to provide for the memorizing of more of the Scriptures than is now usually required. Little more than the golden text is required, and the lesson text is very imperfectly mastered. Along with this the continuous reading of the Scriptures, in course, to get the connection and drift of its teaching is important. It is to be feared that a great deal of the memorizing of Scripture passages done in many Sabbath schools is of a very superficial character.

By the most overwhelming vote ever recorded in the State, Kansas has put herself on record as favoring the enforcement of the prohibition law, and that in spite of the strenuous efforts of the other side, who were hopeful of gaining a vote that would make a re-submission campaign possible. But they were so effectually "snowed under" that only six towns of any importance voted in favor of looser liquor laws. Kansas has long been a prohibition state and is so well satisfied with the experiment that she not only proposes to retain her prohibition law but also to enforce it.

In Ahmatore, in Bulgaria, two young men, teachers in a school, obtained, some time ago, copies of the New Testament. They found it precious to them; then they told their neighbors about it. Recently on a visit of M. Popoff, pastor of the Evangelical

church in Sophia, he found seventy-five of the people of this village who had apparently experienced a change of heart. These two brothers then proposed to erect a chapel on the ground of one of them, when lo, the Ministry of Public Worship in Sophia forbade its erection on the ground that there were no Protestants in the village. Under such hindrances, how marvellous it is that the Gospel should make such progress!

The American Missionary Association, in its fifty-sixth annual meeting, reviewed a most encouraging year, and the enthusiasm there manifest betokened an intensifying interest in the work on the part of its supporters. For the fifth year consecutively the treasurer reported no debt incurred. The income from donations for the year increased \$17,000 over the year before, and amounted in all to \$369,000. Invested funds yielded \$95,000 additional. The association is now ministering to six different races within the bounds of the United States. Its schools and colleges are teaching 18,000 scholars. Its 254 churches have 14,000 members, ten per cent of them newly added within the year.

The Oxford Bible is widely known, but few are aware of the tremendous scale on which it is produced. From the Caxton Magazine, we glean the following data: The Bible publications of the Oxford University Press have been issued for three hundred years and can be published in 150 languages and dialects. Every year fully 600 tons of paper are used for this purpose alone. Orders for 100,000 Bibles are quite common, and the supply of printed sheets is so great that an order for half a million copies can be readily filled. On an average, from 30 to 40 Bibles are furnished every minute, and this number can readily be doubled. No book ever produced is in such demand as the Bible.

The New York Evening Post, a hightoned journal, declares that in the cities of the United States, men whose right hands are full of bribes sit in the high places of government, go about the streets with head erect, are in good repute in society and often in the church. Yet they are confessedly making the very pillars of public life rotten. Popular elections they are turning into merchandise, and rendering the so-called "will of the people," as expressed at the polls, a thing for corruptionists to sneer at even while they manipulate their purchased voters. The Presbyterian Witness noting these facts sarcastically remarks: "It is perhaps some little consolation to find that in Canada we are not much more corrupt than our neighbor." We hope things are not quite so bad as that in Canada.

Rev. John Lee, a Methodist minister living in the suburbs of Chicago, who has for several years been working in a quiet way through diplomatic channels to secure religious toleration in some of the ultra Romanist republics of South America, has just received word that the Congress of Ecuador has legalized marriages by Protestant ministers. Peru did this some time ago. But it still remains in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia to obtain legal sanction for public Protestant wo-

ship, and Mr. Lee is patiently working away at this problem. He persuaded President McKinley to recommend toleration to Peru and hopes that President Roosevelt will soon renew the recommendation. The Chicago Interior says: "It would be a gracious thing if some Presbyterian congressman or senator would take it upon himself to help along this Methodist gentleman's efforts."

Yakutsk, in Russian Siberia, is said to be the coldest town on earth, the thermometer sometimes marking eighty degrees below zero. The Yakuts, however, seem to enjoy the cold. They are the only progressive aboriginal people in Siberia, Prof. A. H. Keane, in his "Man's Past, Present and Future" says of them: "In the Yakuts we have an extreme instance of the capacity of man to adapt himself to the milieu. They not merely exist, but thrive and display a considerable degree of energy and enterprise in the coldest region of the globe. Within the isothermal of -72 degrees Fahrenheit, Verhoyansk, in the heart of their territory, is alone included for the period from November to February, and in this temperature, at which quicksilver freezes, the Yakut children may be seen gamboling naked in the snow. In mid-winter Mr. R. Kennan met some of these 'men of iron,' as Wrangel calls them, arrayed in nothing but a shirt and a sheepskin, lounging about as if in enjoyment of the balmy zephyrs of some genial subtropical zone."

Statesmen, as well as philanthropists, are much alarmed in France over the alleged "inordinate, ever increasing consumption of drink." It is not a question of drunkenness; that is perhaps more rare than in some other countries; but it is the steady increase in the use of alcohol, "the screwing up of nerves and heating of blood, day and night, year in and year out." In the morning they "kill the worm" by the fortified glass of white wine, and through the day it is drink after drink of brandy, abanthe, coffee with brandy, and other compounds that fortunately are not yet well known in this country. French patriots and doctors have been for years proclaiming the danger to the race, and the Minister of Public Instruction has attempted to introduce anti-alcoholic teaching in the public schools, with, of course, the usual opposition. In connection with the foregoing the Presbyterian Banner notes the following appalling facts: "In Normandy cider brandy is given to a child almost as soon as it is born; it drinks to help it in school, and alcohol is the nostrum for all diseases. In one district there is drunk on an average ten small glasses of brandy each day for each man, woman and child. And what other villainous stuff is not mentioned. That district has a liquor shop for every 73 inhabitants. A well-paid workman usually spends about four times as much for drink as for food. The liquor seller has become the great elector; all licenses have been abolished; it is free trade in liquor. Physicians fortify their position by pointing to the increased death rate and the startling growth in the number of lunatics, insane and suicides. In some of these classes the increase within a few years has been four fold, at least in some districts. There are lessons and lessons in the condition of France.