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NOTE AND COMMENT

It is not easy to understand the motives of some American capitalists who are furnishing money to encourage uprisings in Cuba. They are morally guilty of treason against the United States, although it may be difficult to make a case against them, even if caught.

At Muenster, in Westphalia, Emperor William II made a remarkable speech some time ago, in the presence of Protestant and Roman Catholic notables, in which he confessed his un wavering faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, a faith in which he urged his hearers and the whole German nation to unite.

In France a new substitute for gold has been formed by combining ninety-four parts of copper with six parts of antimony, and adding a little magnesium carbonate to increase the weight. It is said that this alloy can be drawn, wrought and soldered very much like gold and that it also receives and retains a golden polish. It is worth about 25 cents a pound.

Mrs. Maria K. Hoffmann lately died in Brenham, Texas, at the age of 102 years, 6 months and 7 days. She was a native of Hesse in Germany, and came to the United States with her husband in the year 1846, and settled near Brenham, Texas. Her husband died thirty-six years ago. Their descendants number 6 children, 41 grandchildren, 114 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great grand children!

Doctor Grenfell acts as guide, philosopher and friend to all the people up and down the coast of Labrador. His memory of faces and people, together with their individual needs and requirements, is simply phenomenal, and most of the residents are known to him personally, not only the fishermen, but the Hudson Bay Company's people, The Moravian brethren at the six stations, and the hundreds of Eskimos on the coast, are all on the lookout for his visit.

A recent despatch from Peking states that constitutional government is soon to supplant the despotism which has ruled China for centuries. An imperial edict has been issued authorizing Prince Pu Lun, who was Chinese envoy at the St. Louis Exposition, and Sun-Chi-Ansi in co-operation with the Grand Council, to frame regulations for the establishment of a council of deliberation, to aid the government "so that the foundation may be laid for a parliament."

It is estimated that there are in India four hundred thousand persons suffering from the disease of leprosy. A society known as "The Mission to Lepers in India and the East" is carrying on mission work among them in seventy-eight centers, most of these being in India, but some also in China, Japan and Sumatra, through the representatives of twenty-seven missionary societies. The funds for the erection of buildings, the maintenance of lepers and their children, and the salaries of the native staff are provided by the "Mission to Lepers," while the various missionary societies with which the society co-operates supply the honorary superintendents who control the leper asylums, in which there are 4,207 adult lepers and children, of whom 3,250 are Christians. An important work is the rescue of the untainted children of leprosy parents.

The Saskatchewan Synod, at its meeting in Moosejaw with a substantial measure of unanimity, adopted a resolution to the following effect:—

"Complete prohibition of the traffic in intoxicants is the ultimate goal at which we aim. But as this seems in the time to be impracticable, we approve of carefully conceived plans of public ownership of the sale of intoxicants, combined with the right of municipal veto, thus abolishing the public bar and the treating system, eliminating the element of private profit and averting the menace of our free institutions and the purity of our public life which the privately owned traffic in strong drink involves."

The temperance people of Jefferson, Co., Alabama, recently won a decisive local option victory. The county went dry by 2,000 majority. The significance of the victory is that the district in question comprises the great manufacturing city of Birmingham. One of the surprising and gratifying features of the election was the fact that the miners and iron workers in such cities as Bessemer, Pratt City and Ensley voted in favor of the prohibition measure. Those opposed to the measure had expected to carry these cities, but the result is proof of the fact that the working man is coming to realize the harm that comes from the open saloon and the benefit to be derived from prohibition.

Ninety years ago, 1817, the Synod of Nova Scotia, the first Synod in British North America, was organized. There were three presbyteries, Pictou, Truro, and Halifax, with nineteen ministers. The ministers in Pictou Presbytery were: James Munroe, James Macgregor, Duncan Ross, Thomas MacCulloch, John Mitchell, John Kier, Edward Pidgeon, Wm. Patrick. Those in Truro Presbytery were: Hugh Graham, John Brown, John Waddell, John Laldaw, Thomas S. Crowe, Robert Blackwood, Robert Douglas. Those in Halifax Presbytery were: Wm. Forsythe, Matthew Dripps, James Robson, John Cassells, Rev. James Macgregor was chosen Moderator. The recent Synod, ninety years later, met in St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, on the first day of October, ult., and, a striking coincidence, one of its members, Rev. J. Macgregor McKay, who was present and took part, was ninety years of age, his life spanning the whole synodical history of our Church.

A hopeful view of the present state of Protestantism in Germany is based partly on articles published by such writers as Prof. Schodde and Dr. Christlieb, who are eminently qualified to judge in this matter, partly on the personal observation of the writer. This view is strengthened by the constant increase of the number of Protestants at the expense of the Catholics in Germany, as is seen from the following paragraph published in the church papers—"Statistics show that in Germany the number of Catholics who become Protestants greatly exceeds the number of Protestants who become Catholics. From 1890 to 1904, 75,978 Catholics became Protestants, while but 10,054 Protestants became Catholics. The Catholic authorities blame 'mixed marriages' for the larger amount of apostasy. In several of the minor states of the German Empire there have been no conversions from Protestantism to Catholicism, but in every state and every year there are conversions to Protestantism."

A new edition of Sir William Crookes's "Researches in Spiritualism" has been published by the Austin Publishing Company, Rochester, N.Y. It is a small volume of less than a hundred pages, the contents of which originally appeared as contributed articles in the London Quarterly Journal of Science more than thirty years ago, under the head of "Experimental Investigation of a New Force." It had an enormous circulation in England, and owing to the author's high standing as a student exerted a wide influence among thinkers and investigators. For years it has been difficult to obtain a copy in this country.

While the report of the United States Census Bureau will not be published until next spring, it is unofficially announced that between the years 1887 and 1906 there have been approximately 1,000,000 divorces granted in the United States, and that something like half a million more pairs sought divorce before the courts during the same period. A frightful showing, says the Lutheran Observer, that ought to awaken the whole country to the need, not only of a marriage law, which shall be uniform throughout the length and breadth of the land, but of a campaign of education which shall impress the sanctity of the marriage relation, and bring the people to see the fundamental necessity of preserving the home.

The church of Uganda, which represents the great mission field and mission work of the English Church Missionary Society in the Uganda Protectorate of Africa, reports 14,959 native communicants, 54,471 baptized persons, 2,586 catechumens, 61 schools with 14,199 male scholars, and 10,901 female scholars. During the past year 4,255 adults and 2,241 children were baptized. The fifty-nine foreign missionaries are aided by 1,932 male and 322 female native Christian teachers, a portion of whom are evangelists. All of the native workers are self-supporting or supported by the native church. The mission is asking for "twenty-five male missionaries in addition to those now in service, to lead the native forces which are standing ready to go forth preaching and teaching in a way no European can ever do."

Our neighbors in Montreal are discussing separate schools for their Jewish fellow-citizens. On this the Witness properly remarks:

It would be a very grievous calamity to Montreal if anything should occur to separate Jewish and Protestant education. Surely we are divided enough. Surely we do not want to create a permanent foreign element. We hope for the time when all our children shall be educated together. That cannot be now; but let us be determined that this system of estrangement shall go no further. If we Canadians are to be a nation we must be one people, whatever our race or color. We deprecate the separatism of the Jews, but in so far as they maintain it, they do so on conscientious grounds, which we cannot but respect. But let that estrangement be as little as possible. There is nothing in either religion preventing Jews and Christians from being friends. On the contrary, both religions enjoin this. Friendship cannot, however, develop where people are excluded from each other's company. There is no nationalizer like the school.