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Note and Comment.

Dr. Murray Mitchell, the oldest minister and missionary of the old Free Church of Scotland, has entered on his ninetieth year. He spent many years in very successful work in India.

Iowa drunkards will be forced to work in coal mines, according to present plans of the State Board of Control. It is planned to buy extensive coal land at the new inebriate hospital, near Knoxville, and put the men sent to the institution at work to supply all State institutions with fuel at actual cost of production.

A Japanese Christian woman is head nurse at the great Tokio hospital. Another Japanese Christian woman is head nurse at the Hiroshima hospital. The head nurses on three of the Japanese hospital ships are also Christians. All of these are wide awake to their privileges and opportunities as workers for Christ. The Red Cross Society classes them among its most trusted agents.

The Baptist Convention, meeting in Truro, N. S., after a lengthy discussion, adopted, with but few amendments, the report of the committee appointed to draft a basis of union between the Baptists and the Free Baptists of the Maritime Provinces. Open communion was agreed to. Dr. Trotter, of Acadia College, spoke of the movement as likely to be "a stride toward a greater union of the churches."

The profession of nursing is held in high esteem in England. Many who are there classed as ladies—daughters of army and navy officers especially—have gone into it. Trained women nurses are now a part of every British military expedition, and are sent out to the Far East and Africa in every troop ship, as necessary and important as the officers themselves. They receive the greatest consideration.

Bourke Cochrane, a prominent politician and orator, of New York, in a recent speech before the Holy Name Society, declared that the conversion of the United States to Catholicism ought to be one of the objects of the society. Within a century he expected to see this brought about. The Philadelphia Westminster remarks: "We have known just as wise men as Mr. Cochrane to predict the end of the world within five years. The five years came, but the end didn't, neither will Mr. Cochrane's prediction."

Mr. William Williams, a prominent Congregationalist in London, England, has just died, aged seventy-five. He was a son of John Williams, the martyred missionary of Erromanga, whose tragic death, in 1839, created such a profound impression, and became the seed of such heroic missionary services as those of John Geddie, John G. Paton, the two martyred Gordons, Robertson, Annard, McKenzie and others, who have made such a magnificent record in the New Hebrides.

The new Soudan United Mission has just issued an appeal calling for immediate and vigorous action in behalf of mission enterprise in that needy field. The appeal points out that the Soudan, with a population of from fifty to eighty millions, has only a half dozen mission stations and less than twenty missionaries. Bishop Tugwell, of the Niger Dr. Millar of Hausaland, and others working on the spot, say that unless Christianity is brought immediately to the West and West Central Soudan, these immense and populous regions will in a few years become Mohammedan.

It is a singular fact that the two archbishops of the Church of England are grandsons of Scottish Presbyterian ministers. Archbishop Davidson's grandfather was minister of Inchture, then of the Outer High Church, Glasgow, and latterly of Tolbooth Parish Church, Edinburgh. He was a popular preacher and a man of much personal charm. Archbishop Maclagan, of York, is the great-grandson and name-child of a man who was famous in his day. Dr. William Dalrymple. The Anglicans of G. B. know where to look when they want particularly good and able men.

Three years ago a Mohammedan merchant from Timbuktu went for trade to the English settlement of Bathurst, on the Gambia River. Some one gave him a text card in Arabic. The next year he traded again in Bathurst and asked for the book from which that wonderful text was taken. When the Bible was shown him he bought it and went away. The third year the merchant came to Bathurst and bought eighteen Bibles for friends who wanted the book. Now, the British and Foreign Bible Society is arranging to open a Bible depot in Timbuktu—the synonym in all the Sahara for Mohammedan exclusiveness and fanaticism.

The Northwestern Christian Advocate laments the decline of the custom of family worship, and regards it as one of the gravest dangers that meet the church in our day. For religion is not something to think about merely in the church or on special occasions, but always and everywhere. Nothing helps so much to make religion a reality to the child and therefore to the man, as daily worship in the family. It makes the father a true priest, and hallows the very atmosphere of the home. Many a father, if his children would speak what is in their hearts, would be asked a question similar to that of the little girl who one day said to her father: "Papa, is God dead?" The parent was shocked at the question. At last he said: "My child, why do you ask such a question as that? Don't you know that God isn't dead?" "Why, I thought, papa, that God must be dead, for you don't ask him any more to take care of us—as you used to." It is thus that parents train their children to skepticism. They are acting as though God were dead, or else that it did not matter much whether his blessing were invoked or his aid asked.

The British Admiralty has recently given out a compilation of statistics intending to illustrate the extreme cheapness in construction of the men-of-war of Great Britain as compared with those of other Powers. The cost per ton of the King Edward VII, is represented at £89, while the French Patrie cost £113 to build. The price paid by Russia for her most modern warships is figured at £100 per ton, that paid by Germany £90, while the United States is to pay £97 for the new vessels now being laid down.

The Christian World reports that a scheme has been launched by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for the establishment of a Methodist Mission at Jerusalem, and a commanding site, costing \$2,400, has been fixed upon. The mission is especially intended to reach the thousands of Arabs who come to Jerusalem from the surrounding country to sell their produce. Dr. James Shaw of Bloomington, Ill., is at the head of the movement.

During the past year the German people consumed alcoholic liquors to the value of \$750,000,000. Drinking is steadily on the increase, the increase amounting to \$125,000,000 per annum in late years. It is not much wonder that the German Emperor and many of the best people of that country have become alarmed at the increase in drinking and drunkenness. The facts stated are brought out in a report made by a commission appointed by the emperor to investigate the drink question. This portion of the report is said to have greatly astonished the Kaiser, who exclaimed: "An increase of six hundred millions in five years! This tremendous guzzling must be stopped somehow."

A medical correspondent of the London Presbyterian writes that paper in the following terms on Sunday excursions:—"Defenders of the Sunday excursion have generally thought that their strongest ground lay, not in its direct mental and moral effects so much, as in the physical benefits to persons who were unable on any other day of the week to get open air, with the indirect mental and moral advantages which flow from an improved physical condition. Whether the majority of Sunday excursionists are persons who cannot at any other time get to the country is open to doubt, but the alleged physical benefits are effectually disposed of by the *Lancet*, in an article on some disgraceful mismanagement at a London terminus on a recent Sunday. We have grave doubts, it says, whether the excursions promoted by the Sunday League are not extremely harmful. It cannot be good for men or women, and still less for children and infants, to spend some five hours in a crowded train, and to be rattled over a badly laid road in an inferior carriage, for the sake of spending a short time in an overcrowded seaside resort. The Sunday League would do better to transfer its subscriptions to one of the genuine agencies which exist for giving children and other workers a holiday in the country of decent length. There is neither rest nor relaxation and certainly no moral uplifting in such excursions."