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NOTE AND COMMENT

The English South Polar expedition sailed from London in the *Endurance*. The attempt to reach the pole will be made next summer with the assistance of a motor car.

A new contrivance for examining the internal condition of the eye has been invented by a Paris doctor, allowing the examination of parts that until now have been obscured.

What a striking sentence from a contemporary is this:—"In Leo. XIII. the Roman Catholic Church had a statesman at the Vatican; in Pius X. she has a saint. Statesmen are all for compromise, saints are foes of expediency." Striking as the sentence is, and true as it is in general, there have been numerous marked exceptions of statesmen that would not compromise and of saints that would; and they have existed among the Catholics and also in all the reformed churches.

The meeting of Japanese Christians in attendance on the recent Christian Endeavor Convention in Seattle was one of its most notable features. There were some hundreds at the meeting who listened to addresses in their own tongue. Secretary Shaw announced the purpose of the society to hold a convention in Japan in a few years. We are almost prepared to believe that plan will be realized. I. Japan shall happen to want that convention in Tokio, or Yokohama, it will go.

The repressive measures of the French government exercised toward the Protestant missions in Madagascar, to which we have made reference in the past, have so nearly succeeded in their object that all or nearly all of the educational institutions connected with the missions have been closed. This work was begun before the French took possession of the island, and has been specially full of promise. It will all have to be abandoned unless the policy of the government is reversed.

The Hague Conference, in its discussion which resulted in the acceptance of the French proposition that there shall be a declaration of war before the beginning of hostilities by a vote of 31 to 2, was asked a most embarrassing question by Colonel Ting, of China. The colonel expressed a wish that the Conference determine what constitutes a "war," in view of the fact that several European countries and America had invaded and fought China without admitting that they were engaged in war!

Proceedings of some general interest are now going on at Concord, New Hampshire, where a body of gentlemen learned in law and medicine are endeavoring to ascertain whether Mrs. Mary Baker Glover Eddy, the founder and priestess of Christian Science, is in a mental condition to manage her own property. So far as may be judged from newspaper reports Mrs. Eddy has rather scored against her enemies, or, as they style themselves for the purposes of the action, her "next friends." For a person eighty-four years of age she is doing pretty well. Her "next friends" are still some distance away from the money. As to her doctrines, they will probably come to no harm as a result of the enquiry. Whatever may be said in court, the true believers will continue to pity the ignorance of a scoffing world.

But no one can stand unmoved at the vast influx of foreigners. So great is the lure of the land of high wages and free thought, that whole districts of Central Europe are suffering depletion of men. The town of Kerisova in Hungary had a population of 3,500 when the exodus to the United States began. It is today without a single male inhabitant.

The great object of a holiday is rest, but for a proper rest certain things are essential, says Claudius Clear, in "British Weekly." There must be solitude—a tempered and ordered solitude. Here I come at once into collision with modern ideas. The great ambition of many holiday-seekers is to be in a vast crowd. This applies particularly to London. The true Londoner likes to be in a collection of many thousands of people exactly like himself. Surely this ought to be the most depressing sight in the world.

Lieut. Peary is to make his dash for the North Pole, and an English party is to try to reach the South Pole. A large amount of money will be wasted in these useless hazards. Why not seek for the East Pole, or the West Pole, or some other old Pole? It could not be more senseless. In the interests of science, you say? How? The only science that has been manifested in this long series of experiments is the science of getting money out of foolish rich men. Suppose both poles are reached? What then? One benefit we can see. The craze will be over.

On account of the deficiency in the Church's Foreign Mission Fund, it was feared that twenty-four theological students would have to be refused admission to the Theological Colleges at Swatow and Wuking-fu. Happily, this misfortune has been averted by the generosity of friends at home interested in Foreign Missions, who have provided the funds necessary for the maintenance of the students. The Theological College at Amoy, with which the name of the Rev. Dr. Wm. McGregor has been so long associated, is a united one, with 32 students. It is the preachers' training institution for the American Reformed Mission and the London Missionary Society, as well as for the English Presbyterian Mission.

We find the following in a recent issue of the "British Weekly":—"The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Andrew Fraser, is not only a deeply religious man, but also one who is ready to utilise opportunities for Christian service whenever he is able. He is the President of the India S.S. Union. In June he presided at the opening session of the Darjeeling C.E. Conference. On the first Sunday in July, during a visit to Bankipore, the civil station of Patna, on one of his official tours, he preached at the ordinary native Christian service at the B.M.S. chapel. The first part of the service was conducted by the Rev. G. J. Dann, the senior missionary, who also interpreted Sir Andrew Fraser's address. It was an inspiration to listen to the Lieutenant-Governor's personal testimony to some of the verities of the Christian faith, as he spoke of the One Redemption and the All-Sufficient Saviour and the Ever-Present Friend, and it is a matter for devout thankfulness that at the present crisis in Bengal there is at the head of affairs such a Christian statesman.

The death is reported of Mr. Robt. Jamieson Mackintosh, who had been for many years secretary of the Scottish Sabbath Protection Association. Deceased who was in his eightieth year, had suffered for nearly a year from an internal trouble. Mr. Mackintosh was an elder first in the Free Tron Church and latterly in Free St. Matthew's Church, Glasgow. For many years he represented a Highland Presbytery in the Free Church Assembly, and he was conspicuous among the "constitutional" party, of which the late Dr. Begg, Dr. Kennedy, and Mr. William Kidston, of Ferniegair, were the leaders.

The United States Commissioner of Labor made an investigation into the question as to what extent the fact of being a drinking man bars a man from obtaining employment. Circulars of inquiry were sent to 7,000 employing concerns, all of which are representative in their lines of business. There were 6,976 replies received. Of these 5,363 state they take the drink habit into consideration in employing new men. The reason given by most is that it is simply a business precaution. The employer is liable for damages done by accident in his establishment and it is only prudent to employ men with clear heads. The reason is a good one, and should be pondered by every workman. To have a reputation as a sober man is distinctly in a man's favor in obtaining work, and in these days of intense competition every man who desires to prosper will see the necessity, as a bit of business prudence, for avoiding the drink habit. In Canada employers are adopting the same wise precautions; and soon the man who uses intoxicants will be utterly out of the industrial race.

The famous converted Russian nobleman who has been visiting America, says the *Missionary Review*, told of his first prayer in October, 1890, when in the night—the two-fold night, liberal and spiritual—he began "feeling after God," when as yet he had not emerged from the shadows of agnosticism. "O God, if you are there above, then show me the truth. I do not know if you are there, or hear me, but, if you do, then make yourself and the truth known to me." Then he went on reading John's Gospel narrative, and suddenly "a light shined" in the prison of his soul. The book was lit up and so were his eyes. He saw as never before and saw what he never had seen before. The Lord Jesus became beautiful and lovely and divine in his eyes—he saw the testimony to him which the Scriptures bear (John 5: 29) as the Son of God, and how precious his life and blood were as the price of man's ransom and redemption. He read on, till he saw that Christ "bore man's sins in his own body on the tree"—and if so, he said, "Mine also," and with those two words—Mine also—the new life began. Since then, he says, he has been having "honeymoons with Jesus," and goes about building chapels in Russia for the poor peasants to worship God, and find the Lord Jesus as their Saviour, too—and spend life as one long honeymoon in his blessed companionship.