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Note and Comment.

Among the Unitarian pastors of the United States there are about thirty women—all of them regularly ordained.

After more than 250 years Pope Leo XIII. has given orders that Galileo's "Dialogues" and "De Revolutionibus" be removed from the Index Expurgatorius, the list of books which Catholics may not read. At the same time Dante's treatise "De Monarchia" is stricken from the list.

The Tramway Company having announced their intention to run the new electric cars on Sundays, the Corporation of Greenock has sent a letter intimating that such action will be contrary to the terms of the lease, and that if persisted in steps will be taken to prevent the company from doing so.

The decline in Sunday-school attendance, which is being deplored in England, is causing anxiety in the United States, where last year there was a falling off of 10,032 in the schools. In 1897-8 there were serious declines. It is suggested that the fact that large families are no longer the rule in New England partially accounts for the falling off.

It has already been announced that the only white man living in Baffin Land is a Scotchman. Dr. Bell, of the Geological Survey, now adds to this that in the uninhabited region of Quebec, east of James Bay and south of the Rupert River, one white man has made his home among the Indians, and he, curiously enough, was a full-blooded Scot.

It seems that even yet Western Asia is the seat of Babel, for no less than 5 tongues, English, Armenian, Russian, Turkish, and Persian, are taught in the boys' school at Tabriz, Persia. So no wonder that at least one of the missionaries sometimes sighs "for a one-language field," and recalls the cry of a young Englishwoman in delirium, "Oh, let's go home, where everybody talks English!"

Some gentlemen were lodging together in a cottage on Deeside. The weather during their stay was very inclement, but, no matter what the weather was, the old-fashioned barometer which hung in the lobby most persistently pointed to "set fair." At length one of the party fetched the landlord, and pointing to the glass, said—"Do you think, Dugald, that there's something the matter with your glass?" "No, sir," replied Dugald, with great dignity; "she's a good glass, and a powerful glass, but she's no' moved w' trifles."

What is said to be the oldest Bible in the United States belongs to the Rev. John Herr, of Lima, Ill., in whose family it has remained for twelve generations. There are but three copies in existence, though originally fifty were printed. The original binding is of beechwood covered with stamped leather, and is in a good state of preservation. It is a fine example of the printing of

the Middle Ages, it having been printed in 1553, at Zurich, by two apostate Carthusian monks, who, we are told, were burned at the stake, three years later, for printing in German when Latin only was permitted to be used in religious books. It contains a picture of the last judgment, and wood engravings with hand-painting.

Ernest Seton-Thompson, the well known writer and author, has been granted permission by Justice Bischoff, in the Supreme Court, to change his name to that of Ernest Thompson Seton. Mr. Seton Thompson, in his petition, said the surname of Thompson was a pseudonym adopted by his family, which hid from the English government after having taken part in the Jacobite rebellion in 1745.

Mr. Robert Anderson, whose death has just taken place at Edinburgh, was the head of the well known publishing house of Oliphant, Anderson, and Ferrier. He was a Fellow of the Scottish Society of Antiquaries, and took an active part in local affairs, being a director of the Scottish Chamber of Commerce, the Scottish Trade Protection Society, the Edinburgh Savings Bank, and of various philanthropic institutions in the city. The deceased, who was seventy-two years of age, was one of the oldest members of the Edinburgh publishing trade.

A proposal has been made to brighten village life in Ireland by establishing lending libraries in them. It is suggested that the National schools could be utilised for this purpose in the evenings, and the books provided by the County Councils. The "Westminster Gazette" adds an amusing suggestion of its own, that evening classes should be formed for teaching the people the old Irish step dance, which might help to restore the former gaiety of the Irish peasantry! This is the very newest nostrum for the cure of Irish ills and ailments. During the potato famine of '47 an English peer seriously recommended the Irish peasant to use curry powder!

The hope is expressed in the Catholic Telegraph, says "The Herald and Presbyter," that the singing of Newman's "Lead, Kindly Light," may be the means of bringing many into the Catholic fold. Of course it was to be expected that the Roman Catholic Church would try to make capital for itself out of the sudden prominence given to this hymn, written by a man who became an apostate from Protestantism. Probably not one person in ten thousand who have heard the hymn cares for its origin. Of course Romanists will glorify the hymn because of its author. Imagine a Roman Catholic congregation singing Luther's "Ein feste burg ist unser Gott."

There seems to be no end to the methods adopted for raising to a higher level the lives of the inhabitants of the city slums. The court and alley concerts of Glasgow were originated in the autumn of 1900, and these open air concerts are now held at stated periods in every slum district of the city during the summer and autumn months. The concerts are managed by a committee of city gentlemen, each concert

being presided over by a town councillor, and the entertainment provided is varied and interesting. All the artists give their services free, and the total expenses, which are trifling, are defrayed by the generosity of a few gentlemen. The scheme has been a great success from the beginning, and is to be further extended.

The Leipzig firm of Diedrichs are publishing a complete German edition of Tolstoy's works. Astonishment was caused today by the public prosecutor confiscating the latest work published by the firm entitled "The Meaning of Life," which contains Count Tolstoy's answer to the Holy Synod regarding his excommunication. The reason given for the seizure is that the work is calculated to bring the Church into contempt, and the prosecutor's action is based on a paragraph of the German penal code, which imposes a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment on anybody publicly insulting one of the Christian churches or other religious communities enjoying in Germany the privileges of a corporation. Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the incident is that Count Tolstoy's indignant reply to his excommunicators is allowed to circulate in Russia, the Holy Synod refraining from prosecution, while the officials of the country which endorsed Luther's protest against the Roman Church seek to extinguish the words of the Russian reformer.

The French Government has found it necessary, says "The Belfast Witness," to suppress the Religious Orders, monks and nuns. Like the Government of Henry VIII. and Thomas Cromwell, they have "sent the cows adrift." England, with its usual hospitality, is receiving these gentry, and the pictorial papers are making our people familiar with Benedictines, Dominicans, Franciscans, and other orders, who are shown landing at Dover, and betaking themselves to the comfortable shelter of stately monasteries in "Merrie England." It will not be merry in England for long, if our Government and nation weaken in their horror for Romanism, and learn first to pity, then to tolerate, and in the end to embrace the superstition of the Italian mission. Jesuits who have been at various times expelled from Roman Catholic countries are now established in the Isle of Wight, and we are not simple enough to suppose they will harmlessly busy themselves with editing new Algebras and such like. The large question is thus opened—How far is it wise in this country to admit undesirable aliens of every sort? We allow Polish Jews to swarm over and fester in London and other cities. They spread infectious diseases, they carry on obscene trades and ways of living, they lower wages, and so take the bread out of the mouths of the decent English poor. And now we run another and different risk—we submit to an invasion of subtle, scheming Jesuits, whose system is the quintessence of Popery and spiritual tyranny. We are harbouring monks and such like whom the French nation, although Roman Catholic, has felt constrained to cast out. Truly John Bull is a patient creature, probably a little too simple for the wiles of a wicked world.