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Note and Comment.

The Germans who were killed at the capture of Taku were shot by guns made in Germany.

Glasgow Presbytery has granted nine months leave of absence to Professor Lindsay, whose health has lately been affected through overwork.

Hereafter no boys that smoke cigarettes or that have been addicted to the use of cigarettes in the past will be employed in the Chicago post-office.

The St. James' Gazette notices that after many centuries the Archbishops of Canterbury are to have once more a palace in the city, from which their See is named.

Mr. Ira D. Sankey is about to visit Ireland for the third time. "This will, no doubt, be my last trip to old Ireland," he says; "and the message will be for all and to all."

The Chinese admit having lost 3000 in various attacks upon the legations at Peking. The foreigners' rations dwindled to one pound a day, consisting of horse-flesh and rice.

It is proposed to erect an electric light plant at Simla, the summer capital of India. It is in the foothills of the Himalayas, and water power is abundant. Kerosene is used at the present time.

The Rev. Dr. Donald Macleod, of the Park Church, Glasgow, the state of whose health is causing much anxiety to his friends, has been granted three months' leave of absence by the Presbytery.

News reached Vancouver of a terrible storm at Nome, Alaska, on the 7th, as a result of which many lives were lost. Over 120 vessels are said to have been stranded, and 30 bodies have been washed ashore.

Mr. Andrew Lang asserts that novels are almost, if not altogether, the only form of literature that is remunerative now; nevertheless he thinks that a new Froude, Macaulay, or Tennyson even would now find readers.

Greater New York's population, as announced by the Director of the Census is 3,437,202. If the same rate of increase is maintained for another decade, Greater New York will have more inhabitants than London has now.

At the recent meeting of Inverness Presbytery, after a long discussion, a proposal by Rev. Murdo Mackenzie, to the effect that in entering the union the Free Church should make a declaration of continued adherence to her distinctive principles, was lost by a narrow vote.

There is one thing which the Zionist movement may claim as an especial achievement, and which it maintains no other Jewish influence could have affected—the reclaiming of men who were drifting not only out of religious but out of racial ken. If this is so, Herzlism has fully justified itself.

The Sacred city of Peking is the "Carnation Forbidden City," which contains the Emperor's Palace, the Imperial Library, the Hall of Portraits of the Chinese Emperors and Sages, temples, parks, &c. It is encircled by a yellow wall some two miles in length, which is surrounded by a moat.

In a test case in New Brunswick it was found that the provincial law framed to restrict the sale of liquor gives full license to druggists to sell up to six ounces and above that on the physician's prescription. Under the law the druggists can carry on a regular liquor business free from license or fear of prosecution.

The question of the gender of the word "automobile" has come up for adjudication by the French Academy and the "Immortals" have decided to make it masculine. Many French purists disagree with the Academy. Still it seems eminently proper to make the rattling combination of iron and fire, or electricity, masculine.

The Rev. Thomas Spurgeon, pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, has the satisfaction of knowing that the whole of the contract price, £44,579, for the rebuilding of the Tabernacle, has been received, and that the new building, as he desired, will be opened free from debt. The re-opening services will take place on the 10th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd of next month.

Dr. Guinness Rogers, in concluding a letter in the Daily News, says:—"I hold there is all but universal agreement among us as to the folly of fighting the battle of the general election on any question relating to the war, and as to the necessity of making the Liberal party broad enough to include men of strong patriotic instincts who believe in a sad, sober, and unaggressive Imperialism."

What nice people there must be in Luxembourg! Fruit trees, principally apples, pears, plums, and cherries, are allowed to grow, flourish and bear fruit along the public roads. This year the crop, when sold by auction, fetched \$10,000. The number of trees is over thirteen thousand. The Luxembourg plan might well be adopted in Canada.

The new King of Italy is an enthusiastic collector of coins, and he has no fewer than twenty-thousand rare specimens—a collection which is considered by those who understand to be the finest in Europe. His Majesty has written an account of his own collection and the history of each coin, as well as a guide for those who are interested in such matters.

The Transvaal war is now calculated by experts to have cost each great London daily paper about £60,000 (\$300,000). This includes the pay of correspondents, dislocation of office work, and loss in advertisements. Additional sales do not count for much, asserts "Vanity Fair," in any case; often they are an actual expense. "Prestige" is the *raison d'être* of the whole.

Commenting upon the excursion of Dr. Harper up the Blue Nile, a Scotch newspaper writer has it that "but for wild beasts, travelling is as safe as in Lower Egypt." Which somehow recalls the statement of the imaginative reporter who, in describing the narrow escape of a certain lady from a railway accident, said she would have been killed on the spot if she had not gone by a previous train.

All the South African correspondents speak in the highest praise of Father O'Leary, the Roman Catholic priest who went with the first Canadian contingent. At Paardeberg he buried all the dead, using the Church of England service, for the Protestants. One poor fellow, a Protestant, who was wounded and dying, was ministered to by Father O'Leary. The kindly clergyman borrowed a prayer-book and read to him and prayed with him.

There is a strong and growing impression that the Paris Exposition will not long have been closed before there will be an outbreak of hostilities between England and France. It was obvious that Lord Rosebery had France especially in his mind when he spoke of the hatred for England that existed on the continent some months ago, and there is but too much reason to believe that this hatred has become intensified, rather than mollified, since then. One evidence of this is the treatment accorded at French tourist resorts to visitors known to be English. Many complaints of this are made daily, and the English boycott of the Paris Exposition is said to have added to the anti-British feeling already existing in France.

Lord Roberts' denial of the statement that he is a Baptist and his declaration that he is a member of the English Established Church, recall the fact that his grandfather, the Rev. John Roberts, was one of the Minor Canons of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, towards the close of the last century.

In the enterprise for the securing of the early publication of interesting reading matter, newspaper proprietors and agencies have nowadays to count on competition from publishers. It is stated that already three prominent publishing firms have cabled to Sir Robert Hart and Dr. Morrison making princely offers for their narrative of experiences during the siege at Peking, and Mr. Conger has been pressed to consent to a lecturing tour in the States.

The Liverpool Post supplies an interesting piece of information regarding Scottish coinage. Mary Queen of Scots was but nine months old at the time of her coronation, and the master of the mint of the period thought proper to impress her likeness on the halfpenny. Accordingly the coin received the familiar title of the baby, which in the braid Scottish tongue grew into "bawbee." It would be interesting to know, remarks the Christian Leader, if any of these coins of 1543 are to be seen in any public museum.

The determination expressed by members of the Glasgow Corporation to deal effectively with the wide-spread opening of Italian ice-cream shops on Sabbath has resulted in the framing of a clause making it unlawful for any person to "sell or vend any article on the Sabbath day without having a licence." The reservation indicated (says "The Christian"), however, is calculated to rob the decision of its moral value. Experience has shown that nothing short of the observance of the Christian Sabbath, or Lord's Day, can meet even the social need, and if the divine requirement be admitted, should any Corporation grant a contrary licence?

Principal Rainy, speaking at a meeting of the Commission of the General Assembly with regard to the prospects of union, said that as things now stood it would appear that there were seven brethren who had made up their minds that they must take an attitude of irreconcilable opposition to the union as proposed. They were determined that they would not be members of a united Church, constituted as the proposed united Church would be; that they would not be satisfied with declarations or protests, and that it was their bounden duty to agitate congregations and to create division to a larger extent. Accordingly they must themselves be prepared, if their congregational peace was disturbed, to define the position and principles of their own Church, and protect those who were disposed to abide by the action of the Church in regard to the union.

The Toronto Mail says: Rev. Gilbert B. Wilson, M. A., L. L. B., of Toronto University, who it will be remembered, on the completion of his theological course at Knox College, in 1898, won the travelling scholarship offered by that institution, and went abroad to continue his studies has just returned to Canada, and for the time being has taken up his residence in this city. Mr. Wilson spent most of his two years abroad at the University of Halle, in Germany, devoting himself to the study of church history under Professors Loofs and Lindner; philosophy, under Professor Riehl; Sociology, under Professor Conrad; and apologetics and dogmatics, under Professor Kaehler. He also took lectures at the University of Berlin with Professors Harnack on church history, Weiss on New Testament, Paulsen on ethics, and Seeberg, Kaftan and Pfeleiderer on dogmatics. On the completion of his course in Halle, Mr. Wilson was granted the degree of doctor of philosophy, "magna cum laude," his thesis being marked by the faculty with the superlatives diligentissime, accuratissime, acutissime. Before leaving the university he disputed publicly on three theses in the presence of the faculty and students, and so acquitted himself that the right to "habilitate" as Privatdocent, the recognized avenue to the professorate in any German university was granted to him.