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Note and Comment.

There will be general sympathy with Mr. Ira D. Sankey, the celebrated singing evangelist, who has been declared hopelessly blind by the highest medical authority.

By direction of King Edward, several alterations are being effected at Crathie Church, Aberdeenshire. The roof has been covered with red English tiles, to give the building a more rural appearance, and a bust of Queen Victoria is to be put in a niche in one of the pillars.

Three canons of the Church of England took part in the "recognition" of Rev. R. J. Campbell in the City Temple, London. After this says the Presbyterian Standard we should hear less of the canon that forbids the interchange of pulpit courtesies between Episcopal and other Protestant ministers.

The statement is made that France is about to alter its fiscal system so far as to introduce an Income Tax, based on the principle that every citizen should bear his share of the country's burden. The principle is a sound one—a fact which will be acknowledged by every intelligent and patriotic citizen, always, provided, the tax is equitably levied and honestly expended.

It is positively asserted of a certain church that it has no prayer-meeting, and when a number of members proposed to establish one and hold their meetings in the meeting house, it was voted that those who attended the meeting must pay the expense of fuel, light, etc. Think of such a church as a missionary society or as an agency appointed by the Lord Jesus for the evangelization of the world.

The British Foreign Office published last week the text of the telegram sent by King Peter of Serbia to King Edward. The King's reply, which was couched in courteous terms, expressed his Majesty's wish for the prosperity of King Peter's reign and the hope that King Peter would be able to re-establish the good name of Serbia, upon which "recent events have cast so regrettable a stain."

Recently the Philippine commission proposed to enact an opium law for the Philippines, providing for the sale to the highest bidder of the monopoly of the opium trade. The measure was opposed by the Evangelical Union of Manila and even by the Chinese chamber of commerce. Emphatic protests were sent into the Washington administration by evangelical bodies in the United States with the result that the war department cabled to Manila asking that the bill be held for further investigation. The measure—which, it is hoped, will now be completely blocked—is copied after the opium legislation in British India, which has been disgraceful and disastrous as all the world knows. On the other hand, in British Burmah and recently in Japan, the total prohibition of the opium traffic is being tried with most favorable results. What a bless-

ing abolition of the opium traffic would be to India and China!

The Belfast Witness has heard of a man who describes his pew as "a certain portion of the house of God which he has engaged to see filled up." Our contemporary comments: "If this were the generally received idea of pew ownership, four things would follow—1. We should not hear any more clamor about free sittings. 2. The pew owners would become missionaries; they would have to look about for careless people to fill the pews. 3. Those brought in thus would be looked after. Each pew owner would have his little flock to care for. 4. The problem of the lapsed masses would be solved." Here is a practical idea worth considering.

During last year most remarkable progress was made by Protestantism in the West of France, where at different places there have been religious movements towards the Reformed faith. This has been specially in the districts of Perigord, the two Charentes, Deux Sevres, Haute-Vienne, Correze, and Gers. Several interesting secessions of French priests have also recently been announced. The latest are two, one from Algiers, M. Fleuriot, Vicar of Soukabras; the other M. Taillefert, from the diocese of Moulins, who wrote to his bishop that his only regret in laying aside the soutane was that he had worn it twenty years, and that it was the lively of hypocrisy, laziness, tyranny, and iniquity. He was laying aside his office of priest in a church that no longer inspired his confidence, since it used duplicity and violence to compel the acceptance of its laws and its beliefs.

The results of the Los von Rom movement in Austria continue to be of the most encouraging character. The statistics of the movements in Bohemia for the first three months of this year show that the new reformation there continue to win many hearts. During the quarter of this year 428 Roman Catholics registered themselves as having joined the Protestant Church. The steady progress of the movement is also seen in the opening of new centres of evangelization and in the erection of new churches, and the new life that is manifesting itself in Austrian Protestant churches is proving its genuineness by kindling the missionary spirit. In Italy also the Protestants are beginning to show the consciousness of their growing strength by a forward movement. A meeting was recently held at Milan, at which it was decided to found a National Evangelical League. And as an outcome of the newly formed league it is proposed to establish a new Protestant daily newspaper.

At the General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland Rev. John Tainsh, convener of the Praise Committee, spoke some useful words on the organ question. The Scotch have taken to organs with an enthusiasm which has not always been tempered with discretion. Apparently they have erected too much from the organ. Sometimes they have bought with the Carnegie money instruments too big for their church-

es, and they have found difficulty in getting organists in sympathy with the simple Psalm and hymn service of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Tainsh's advice is to devote the vocal side—the choir, the praise, the devotional spirit. "Sing with heart and voice," he says "and keep the organ in its place. Do not suffer the great monster to overpower you." This is wise advice which might well be considered in the latitude of Canada. So-called "classical music," which seems to be "all the rage" with many organists and choirs nowadays, is not specially promotive of a devotional spirit.

The better classes of journals in the United States, secular as well as religious, are raising emphatic protests against the continued persecution and lynching of negroes in that country. For instance, the Presbyterian Banner, in the course of an article on the subject, gives utterance to the following incisive language: "The persecution of the negroes in this country is the same lawlessness and cruelty and rests on the same ground of race prejudice as the persecution of the Jews in Russia. We think it would be impertinent for our President to protest to the Czar against the killing of Jews in Russia when such things are being done in this country. It would be well for us to try to see ourselves as others see us. Let us first pull the beam out of our own eye, and then we may see clearly to pull the mote out of our brother's eye." President Roosevelt cannot fail to see the point.

There is a paragraph clipped from the letter of a correspondent in the United Presbyterian, which embodies a warning fitted to Canada as well as to the United States: "Our Republic is founded upon the virtue, intelligence and industry of the individuals composing the whole commonwealth. As long as the morals of a nation, as a whole, are sound, it must endure. Should, however great wealth, luxury and licentiousness prevail to a great extent, so as to overcome the majority of the people, then the foundations of this great Republic will be undermined. Too much luxury must weaken industry; immorality and licentiousness must weaken virtue. A craze for material things as above moral and intellectual wealth must lead to national decay. A devotion to the sensual above the spirit and educational, must injure any people. Our common school system is a great safeguard to liberty. Above all, the Christian religion, and the religious devotion of our people, is the greatest anchor of hope for our country's survival. When religion gives way to skepticism, and intelligence to ignorance, and the Sabbath is destroyed, then we may well tremble for our Republic. There is food for thought in this for the people of Canada. There is a danger that we have started on the road which gives scope for the development of the rational evils so graphically depicted in the above paragraph.

Let us have done with vain regrets and longings for the days that never will be ours again. Our work lies in front, not behind us, and "Forward" is our motto.