

Dominion Presbyterian

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NOTE AND COMMENT

If you will give some earnest thought to trying to understand the troubles of others you will have less reason to complain that others do not understand yours.

The Thanksgiving of one day can not rehearse the blessings nor express the gratitude of a year. Day by day we bless thee; and we magnify thy name ever, world without end.

The ascent of Mt. McKinley seems to have been accomplished this time by a party of four. No traces were found of any previous exploration, nor was it expected there would be. The achievement is of no great consequence so far as science is concerned, but it has been accomplished, which is no small satisfaction. The spirit of adventure has been the angel of progress. But for it the race would still be raising apples somewhere in the vicinity of Eden.

Sometimes it is a sin to do nothing. It is a sin to sit still when all around us the poor and the sick are crying for help. It is a sin to sit still when so many men are perishing for iniquity. It was for failure to heed the call of need that the curse came upon Merod.

Beauty has a distinct mission. God loves beauty, and has made the little Alpine flower to grow where none but He and the angels can see it. There is something better in life than dollars and cents and straight lines and angles and neutral colors.

The Basel Mission on the Gold Coast has now nearly 22,000 in its Christian community, with 6,265 school pupils. Last year 1,023 heathen were baptized and the total contributions to church and school purposes amounted to \$7,000 francs. Industrial enterprises in connection with this mission have been very successful. Coffee and cocoa have been cultivated under missionary direction. Widespread instruction in carpentry, wagon-building, iron-work and agriculture are given. The cocoa industry brings much real money to the people, which is also a new temptation to them, and alcohol is the plague here it is everywhere. The mission combats this by means of the Blue Cross organization.

The Act of Parliament rescinding the prohibition of marriage with a deceased wife's sister has put the Established Churches of Scotland and England in a delicate position. Both of these Churches retain the prohibition, which places them in antagonism to the State. An English rector refused the communion to a parishioner on the grounds that he had married his sister-in-law. The parishioner appealed to Caesar, who decided in his favor. The Church of Scotland is disposed to acquiesce, which is wise. One hundred years ago it would have led to schism, but the day of "Reliefs," "Secession," "Burghers," "Anti-Burghers" and "Frees" has fortunately passed.

persons. A reputation for being reliable is the key to most of life's successes. Friends, work, honor, all gravitate to the reliable person. Being reliable is not easy, surface work. It takes day after day and year after year of patient acceptance of responsibility, of picking up the threads that the careless drop, of being in place and on hand in emergencies where others fall, of doing uninteresting faithful work that others tire of and elight—it takes all this to make the dependable man and woman known and valued. But how good they are to know, and how valuable! To be depended on, and not to fail any one who trusts us—that is worth living for and makes life better worth the living.

The Herald and Presbyter asks, where has the Presbyterian Church made such headway during the last ten

years as in the Philippine Islands? Beginning with nothing there are now ten thousand communicants, in three presbyteries. The people are now working for self-support and for the evangelization of this country, and are already supporting several evangelists, who are hard at work. The people are hungry for the gospel which in its purity they have never had up to this time. And yet there are those who say that they do not need to do missionary work in lands that have been held by the Roman Catholics. The fact is, that no place in the world needs the pure gospel worse than these very lands.

A veritable Jean Valjean seems to have been discovered in Dresden. For years Mr. Charles May, the author and millionaire philanthropist, has been regarded as one of the foremost citizens of the kingdom. But a Socialist unmasked his real identity and proved him to be a desperado of forty years ago. Unfortunately the same thing on a lesser scale goes on everywhere. When one reforms and tries to lead a better life there is always some one who delights to recall the past and thus baffle every effort at successful reformation. It was the custom of the late Col. Hadley never to inquire into the record of anyone, however dark it might have been. He used to say that God was willing to forget and why should not he? But Col. Hadley was one among a thousand.

The workers above all others in the world to-day who are subjected to the severest privations and are very probably the poorest paid, are the workers in the Home Mission fields. The fact is not fully enough recognized. As a consequence these laborers are not the objects of the sympathy they deserve. Couple with the great privations they are called upon to endure another fact that calls for the most prayerful consideration: They are unsurpassed in the usefulness of their service to the church. They are in many a case not merely holding the ground already occupied but are beyond in the entirely destitute regions building foundations for unborn generations and the glory of the church of the future. No man can ever estimate the value of their great mission and achievements.

The "neighbor," for the purposes of the gospel, is definable as any man to whom one may do good. Every life touches many other lives, and every touch should mean an imprint of blessing. The touch should be not merely factual, but also spiritual. The Good Samaritan touched the life of the victim of the brigands on that dangerous road going down to Jericho at but a single point, but he touched him with a blessing. The best gift he gave the unfortunate was, not his purse, but his personality. In so doing, the Samaritan became a kind of a human saviour, the incarnation of neighborliness, the epitome of gospel, the exponent of tender factual religion. He was emphatically the man of mercy. And the Divine Samaritan, summing up the lessons of the episode, drove its moral home on the conscience of the scribe, and so of every hearer of his words in every age since, with the injunction, "Go thou, and do likewise."

The world depends upon dependables.

The tablet which Professor Hilprecht, of the University of Pennsylvania, announced two weeks ago that he had discovered on an expedition to Palestine, was denounced at a meeting of the American Oriental Society at the Johns Hopkins University, last week, as a fabrication and as an exploitation of an archaeological fraud for purely sensational purposes. Dr. Barton, in a paper which he read, said that the scholarship which Professor Hilprecht manifested in his translation of the text of his tablet was hardly worthy of a first-year student in Hebrew, and

that the restorations which he made in the case of filling in broken lines were purely conjectural emendations, so that the chances of his interpretations being correct were only about 1 in 100. In the second place, Dr. Hilprecht claims that the tablet was written some time between 2137 and 2005 B.C. Any student of the Oriental languages could tell, from even a casual examination, that the dialect in which the tablet is written belongs to a wholly later period, and that instead of the real date of the tablet being that of the time alleged it really belongs to several centuries later. In the third place, when Dr. Hilprecht claims that this belongs to a priestly document, his allegation is based upon a mistranslation of the Babylon text, which in turn rests upon a misunderstanding of the Hebrew text and upon the pure, unbridled imagination of the translator.

STARTLING STATISTICS.

Referring to the fact that the Grand Trunk Pacific is now bringing large numbers of settlers into the wheat belt of Western Canada—repatriated French-Canadians from the east and thousands of American farmers from the south—a high official of the Grand Trunk recently stated that the development of the west was proceeding with such gigantic strides as not to be fully appreciated by the Canadian people themselves.

"Take these figures, for instance," said the official, "which the Grand Trunk has compiled and distributed over Great Britain and Europe, and you will see what I refer to."

"In 1907 the total wheat acreage was 5,061,207."

"In 1909 it was 6,878,999 acres, an increase of 39.5."

"In 1907 the total yield was 71,574,402 bushels."

"In 1909 the yield was 147,482,000, an increase of 106.1."

"The total yield in oats in 1907 was 74,713,561 bushels, while in 1909 it was 185,439,000, an increase of 148.2 per cent."

Here is the summary of all grains: In 1907, 165,473,412 bushels. In 1909 it was 364,279,000, an increase of 120.1 per cent.

A Record Which Beats the World.

"No such record of advance could be shown by any other country in the world," said the official.

"With wheat at \$1 per bushel, oats at 25 cents, and barley at 52 cents, the millions of dollars actually brought into Western Canada can be easily computed."

"The Grand Trunk Pacific goes right through the heart of the wheat belt. The people whom the Grand Trunk Pacific have already brought in have grown wonderful crops of class wheat, and got the money for it in their pockets."

French-Canadians for the West.

"You have seen that we are bringing French-Canadians to the West as well as the American farmers, each with at least \$1,000, not to speak of cattle and other belongings. All this is new land, untouched until the Grand Trunk Pacific went in."

"What about the alleged danger of the Americans Americanizing the Northwest?"

"I don't think we need trouble about that. The Americans are much like ourselves. They have the same tongue. They have been obeying the same laws, only the laws are better carried out in Canada than in the United States. They will understand the advantages of order and regularity more readily than other nationalities."

"Of course, they will have admiration and love for their own country, which is natural, but they will make the best of citizens."

"During last year 100,000 Americans crossed the border and entered the Dominion as permanent settlers." — Montreal Standard, April 16, 1910.