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NOTE AND COMMENT

"It cannot possibly be a violation of religious liberty," says the Interior, "for the State to teach in its public schools whatever moral ideas the majority of its citizens conclude to be necessary for the nation's self-preservation."

Lord Minto, Viceroy of India, returned to Calcutta from the north, cutting short a visit there for the purpose of coping with the menace of an uprising among the natives which manifests itself in almost daily attacks upon the lives of Englishmen.

The Anglican clergy of the city of Montreal last week passed a resolution placing on record their disapproval of the Sunday opening of theatres, moving picture shows, etc., and their willingness to co-operate with those who are working to close such places on Sunday.

The report of a select committee of the House of Lords appointed to suggest a plan for the reform of the Upper House, was issued last week. The committee finds it undesirable that the possession of a peerage should of itself give the right to sit and vote in the House of Lords, and it recommends that qualifications should be the main test for admission to the reformed house.

Professor Laurent, of the Brussels University, who has won world-wide fame by his work on cancer research, now authorizes (says the "Daily Telegraph") the publication of the news that he has found a method of curing cancer, and, moreover, that he has cured fifty-seven cases himself by his method. The new method consists of injections of concentrated formaldehyde into the cancerous wound. The most serious cases of internal cancer have been cured in this way in a few weeks, and without the slightest intervention of surgery.

One of the most distinguished Jewish rabbis of America declared in a sermon in Chicago, on a recent Sunday in favor of intermarriage and attacked the "racial purity" argument of orthodox Jewish leaders, who oppose intermarriage, declaring that no such thing as a distinctive Jewish race exists and that vaunted racial purity and unmixed blood is a myth. If this is so what becomes of the doctrine of the continued existence of the Jewish people as a people and of their ultimate conversion and restoration to Palestine.

The Very Rev. Donald Macleod, D.D., of the Park Parish, Glasgow, inaugurated the jubilee celebration of the founding of the Chalmers United Free Church, Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow. In the course of his sermon Dr. Macleod said that he had been induced to join with them in this their year of jubilee, which was also the jubilee of his own ordination, through his admiration and respect for the noble name they bore, that of Chalmers. He considered Dr. Chalmers the greatest statesman and Churchman that Scotland had produced since the days of Knox. He believed that Chalmers' ideal of a church was still the true one—the church and the minister to be the people's own and hoped that the time would yet come to be in Scotland when the non-churchgoer would be approached not in the spirit of church officialism or proprietorship, but in the spirit of brotherhood, and invited to enter and enjoy their own church and their own minister.

The King of Sweden (says the "Pall Mall Gazette") is, of all European monarchs, the least likely to be impressed with the gorgeous ceremonial. King Gustav, immediately on his father's death, protested against a Coronation ceremony, and told the Minister of his Household that he could get along quite as well if the half million dollars set aside for the ceremony "were put to a holier use." Likewise he protested against an elaborate ceremony in opening his first Parliament, preferring, as he said, to walk across from the Palace and open the session in a speech delivered in his ordinary clothes. A taster himself, at one of his social dinners not a drop of imported wine, not a drop of spirits, was to be seen on the table, and the health of the King and Queen was drunk in a Band of Hope beverage.

If the Pall Mall Gazette be correctly informed there will shortly be announced a treaty and alliance between Great Britain and Holland. Whether the news be correct or not, there is no doubt that some such step would be very welcome to a considerable section of the British people, as a guarantee of the integrity of the Netherlands. There is little doubt that the occupation of Holland would agree remarkably well with the Kaiser's naval plans, and at the same time it would increase very seriously the possible danger to Great Britain. There is no power in Europe, save Holland herself, so interested in the maintenance of the status quo, as Great Britain, and if the mooted alliance shall turn out to be a fact, and not a dream, it will assuredly be a diplomatic triumph of which the British people may well be glad.

The vagaries of godmothers and godfathers have often laid upon the helpless infant on the day of baptism a burden almost too heavy to be borne, says The Christian Advocate. One of our contemporaries is led to make this observation by the case of a certain lieutenant in the Second Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment: "Since the day of his christening he staggered along through life burdened with the name of Leo Quintus Tollemache-Tollemache de Orellana Plantagenet Tollemache-Tollemache. Like a true Englishman he has fled to the Times for relief and there advertises that he has renounced the names of Quintus Tollemache-Tollemache Plantagenet Tollemache and intends henceforth upon all occasions and at all times to sign and use and be called and known by the name of Leo de Orellana Tollemache only."

The following from the London Christian will commend itself to all thoughtful people: "Meanwhile there is another kind of ministry that needs cultivating, that of the 'layman.' It is surprising to what a limited extent the Church utilizes some of the best material, but where it has been done the results have been remarkable. Methodism for example, could never have accomplished its great work but for its army of 'local preachers.' The principle of lay work is already recognized, but it needs great extension. If once the idea took possession of Christian men that the whole Church is responsible for the evangelization of the world, much power that is at present wasted would be turned in its proper channel. Men and money alike are wanted for the spreading of the Gospel at home and abroad. This calls for consecrated people with consecrated pockets; but, above all, for consecrated hearts."

It has been proposed that the four hundredth anniversary of Calvin's birth, which is to be celebrated by Presbyterians next year, be observed by founding a training school for ministers in France, the land of Calvin's birth. Such a memorial to the great French theologian will be most appropriate and should meet with general acceptance in all quarters.

The Evangelical Alliance suggests the following topics for the Week of Prayer: Monday, January 4, "The Bible the Word of God," with special prayer for its wider circulation; Tuesday, "God's Faithfulness, Man's Responsibility," with prayer for the realization of our duty to be faithful and for the spirit of true repentance; Wednesday, "Missions: Home and Foreign," with prayer for the development of the missionary spirit and for individual consecration; Thursday, "Intemperance and Gambling," with prayer for the overthrow of these evils; Friday, "The Family and School," with prayer for both of these institutions; Saturday, "The Signs of the Times," with prayer for a more passionate devotion to Christ and the great Christian doctrines. It is suggested that the sermon to be preached on January 3 be on "The Law of the Harvest," and that the topic for January 10 be "Christ the Giver of Life."

The Evangelical Alliance has again prepared topics for consideration during the Week of Prayer which will be observed by churches all over the country from January 3 to 10. It is easy to complain that the topics for the Week of Prayer are not just what they ought to be, and we must confess that it looks to us as if the officers of the Alliance had yielded to the clamor of various organizations and had prepared their topics with a view to satisfying such demands. In our judgment it would be far better if the topics considered during this first week of the year were prepared with the view of quickening the spiritual life of the members and their sense of obligation to carry out the Lord's last command; but whether these topics are used or not, it is certainly advisable that the people of all churches should spend this first week of the year in services which are devoted to prayer and a consideration of the interests of Christ's kingdom.

Egypt is the center of Mussulmen culture and learning and its people are clamoring for a parliament. The movement for popular government in Turkey has increased this desire. The student body especially is actively agitating for it. What they want is a "Dustoor" or national assembly. Egypt is nominally under the control of Turkey, but a distinguished leader of the popular party has lately produced a political paper in which he shows that the privileges enjoyed by Egypt as a "vilayet" of Turkey were granted to the Khedive and not to the nation, as the orators of the People's Party are wont to state. He concludes by advocating, first, that the Egyptian people strive to have these privileges extended to themselves and make them permanent in all branches of public administration. Second, that they break down the barriers which keep them from participating, as is their inalienable right in the constitution of the Ottoman Empire, under whose suzerainty they live, so that they may have a voice in the future decisions of the Ottoman Parliament.