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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Principal Scrimger of the Montreal Presbyterian College, stated recently that the first year class in theology in that institution, is three times as large a class as last year's. The graduating class is also larger.

A missionary writes: "okio, Japan, has ten bookstores for every one that can be found in St. Petersburg, Russia." Japan has 5,351,502 children in school, 92 per cent. of those of school age; Russia has 4,484,594, only 25 per cent.

The amount of money raised by Christian missionary societies in America and Europe and expended in non-Christian lands during 1903 was \$18,459,841. Of this sum Great Britain and Ireland contributed \$8,847,666; the United States, \$7,176,845, and Canada, \$383,748.

Rev. Dr. Grierson, missionary from the maritime provinces to Korea, who was reported dangerously ill some time ago, has recovered, and hoped to be able to leave that country on October 3rd for a visit to Nova Scotia. Miss Dr. McMillan has also been ill.

The Medical Record describes a case in which a man of forty-two years was made totally blind by drinking two ounces of whiskey which was adulterated with wood alcohol. After about four days he was totally blind and at the same time suffered from nausea and chilly extremities. Six months of treatment resulted in partial recovery of the sight, but the left eye was ever after insensible to green.

Rev. Father Hays, the temperance evangelist of Australia, is proving himself to be a second Father Mathew. What the latter did for the cause of temperance in Ireland, the former is now doing in far off Australia and New Zealand. The press of the island continent contains many references to the wonderful success achieved by this apostle of temperance. During seven weeks in Australia Father Hays has prevailed on 21,358 men and women to sign the pledge; in New Zealand in less than seven weeks more than 15,000 persons joined his crusade.

Rev. J. A. Sibley, writing from China in the "Bible Society Record," tells of the progress of Bible work in that country. In 1904 the various societies published altogether 2,252,259 copies of the Scriptures and parts of Scriptures. The majority of these are in the old Chinese characters, but a large number are now being printed in Roman characters. This latter move is expected to have wide influence in the modernizing of the Empire, and to be the beginning of a growing use of the alphabet in place of the old ideograph.

Surgeon-General Suzuki, of the Japanese navy, speaking recently at a convention of the Railroad Y.M.C.A. in Detroit, U.S., declared that for twenty years he had been a Christian; then, with tears in his eyes, he told of the conversion of his wife and five children. Speaking of the missionaries he said: "We want you to send us to our good men, who will convert our hearts and show us the real meaning of Christianity. Japan is supposed to be a non-Christian country, but there are many men, women and children in Nippon trying to be faithful to the right and to God. I, myself, was baptized twenty years ago. I cannot say that I am a good Christian, but I am a Christian."

Put the people of China in rank, joining hands, and they will girdle the globe ten times at the equator with living, beating, human hearts. Constitute them pilgrims, and let 2,000 go past every day and every night, under the sunlight and under the solemn stars, and you must hear the ceaseless tramp, tramp, tramp of the passing throng for five hundred long years. By these strong figures the "Mission Field" (S.P.G.) explains to the reader's mind what 400,000,000 means.

The annual conference of hospital superintendents was held in Boston recently. A Boston paper says the keynote of the conference was a unanimous condemnation of the too lavish use of the surgeon's knife and the alleged wasteful expenditures in hospitals. The principal speaker was Sir Henry C. Burdett, K. C. B., of London, and he denounced both evils in no uncertain terms. This is in line with the opinion of several other prominent physicians and scientists who have called for more conservatism in operating, especially for appendicitis. Eminent surgeons are declaring that the appendix, as useless as it seems and as troublesome as it often is, has nevertheless been made a part of the human organism, and it should not be cut away on the slightest provocation.

Rev. W. B. Rubusana, a civilized and Christianized African, who is described as "a very interesting man," has been on a visit to Great Britain. He is of great stature, powerful physique, and superior mental capacity. He owes much, he says to his education by the Presbyterian mission at Lovedale, South Africa. Attracted to the London Missionary Society, he connected with the Congregational Church and has been working successfully amongst the natives, founding a church of 480 members. On the whole subject Mr. Rubusana says: "Missionary work is spreading wonderfully, and the whole country is being rapidly and successfully evangelized by the different denominations. Perhaps the strongest missions are the Anglican and the Wesleyan. But the Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists, Lutherans and Moravians are all prospering splendidly. The Roman Catholics make little headway in Cape Colony, but they have been doing good work in civilizing the Basutos."

Speaking recently at a public dinner in the city of Mexico, Minister Cramer of the United States, who was in China during the Boxer rebellion, said the following tribute to the worth and work of Christian missionaries: "For seven years past I have been intimately associated with American missionaries in China. They are veritable heroes. They are the forerunners of civilization. It was they who first planted the banner of the Prince of Peace in every place where now floats the flag of commerce and trade. The dim pathways which they traced, sometimes marking them with their life blood, are rapidly becoming the highways of travel and trade, lined with school houses and railway stations. During the memorable siege of Peking, when the laceration walls were being battered down by cannon shot and mortar bombs, it was the encouraging words of prayerful Christians that gave us constant courage and sustaining hope. There was but one man among us who completely broke down, helpless and despairing, and he was an avowed atheist. He had no faith in God and consequently no strength in himself." The above is thoroughly effective to the criticisms of badly informed people who say that missions are a failure and that missionaries are doing more harm than good.

The Youth's Companion has a word of advice to the young voter. "He is," says that journal, "free to look squarely at all the municipal candidates, and to vote for those who seem to him most able and most honest. There is absolutely no other test that he need apply, but this test he must apply if he would do his full duty as a citizen. The danger of dragging party standards into the contest is that it restricts the choice and blinds the judgment. The man who has the whole forest from which to choose a mast for the ship of state is a good deal more likely to pick a tree that is clean and sound than the man who can choose only from his own wood-lot." The nearness of our municipal elections makes timely our contemporary's remark about "dragging party standards into the contest." Let all voters—young and old—make choice of the best men, irrespective of political affiliations.

Mission work in Africa has been making greater strides than most of us have realized. It is not what is being done in one field, but in many, that is counting. The general outlook is given by an exchange, which says: "Up to fifty years ago Africa was 'unexplored.' Today the Protestant denominations have 2,470 missionaries at work for the conversion of the native races in thirty-five countries of that 'Dark Continent.' These are assisted by 13,089 native helpers, and the work is carried on from 4,789 centers. There have been established by these Christian forces 3,937 schools, in which are gathered 202,390 pupils; while in the churches are 221,256 communicants not counting those black members which in parts of the English South African colonies are no longer regarded as in 'foreign' fields. North of the equator the country best supplied with evangelical teaching is Egypt south of it, Cape Colony. Wherever English protection is found, Protestant missions flourish as upon the Gold Coast and in Uganda. Wherever French influence predominates Protestant missions have been trampled out as in Algeria and the French Congo."

The Christian Intelligencer reports the work of a remarkable religious revival at the children's home, established by that famous woman, the Pandita Ramabai, at Muleti in India. The Home has over 1,500 inmates, and the manifestations of the Holy Spirit's presence and power were akin to those witnessed in the remarkable work which wrought such wonderful results in Wales. The work began on June 30, and was specifically characterized by a profound sense of sin following testimony and prayer, and this so general that as in Wales, prayers, confessions and testimony burst forth without the leading guidance and kept on for hours. Large numbers of the women and girls have been completely changed in heart and life, and the revival still goes on. The revival doubtless came in answer to the faith and prayer of the consecrated Pandita, but its outbreak was a surprise even to her, and began with the conversion and testimony of one girl. Two features in this revival are to be particularly noted, as characteristic of any genuine and thorough work of grace. The one is the profound sense of sin. A witness of it writes: "I have never seen such agony over sin and tears as they cried for pardon and cleansing and the baptism of the Holy Spirit." This feature is too often wanting in pre-arranged revivals. The other is the spirit of prayer, which would sweep over the assembly like a flood, many praying at the same time and not without a sense of confusion or disorder. And prayer was not for themselves only but for a revival in India.