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Note and Comment.

The Viceroy, Lord Curzon, says that the past three weeks are the happiest he has spent in India, as during them the abundant rains have removed all fears of another famine.

Sir Archibald Geikie, in a powerful lecture on Hugh Miller's life and work, paid a high tribute to the geniality and broadness of his mind, which qualities have done so much to break down the barriers of bigotry and intolerance which separated men in his time from the study of science.

Professor Wagner, the architect, is of the opinion that practically the whole of Venice is doomed to destruction. He says that the subsoil has deteriorated, and piles and pillars are rotten and unable to stand the pressure on them. Shrinkages and sinking have been observed in the subsoil for many years, although an official commission lately declared that there was no danger from these causes.

The Rev. Dr. Norman M'Leod, who was a great, big, burly man, was once in a boat with a thin thin, little, frail-looking brother minister. As they were crossing the Highland loch, one of those fierce, quick mountain storms came down, and the boat was in danger. "Brother," said the little minister, "let us pray together." "Na! na!" said the Highland boatman; "the wee one can pray, but the big one maun tak' an oar!" That was sound theology.

The centenary of Hugh Miller was commemorated at Cromarty, the place of his birth. Hugh Miller was something more than a "Famous Scot." He was a typical representative of his country. Born in the lowliest circumstances, he was wholly self-educated, and he had if ever man had, the "perferviduim ingenium Scotorum." His principal biographer has justly described him as "Eminent in science and literature, and one of the most remarkable among self-taught men of genius."

Prince Bernadotte, son of King Oscar of Norway and Sweden, was elected President of the World's Convention of Young Men's Christian Association, recently held in Christiania. King Oscar held a reception for the two thousand delegates in attendance. The Prince is President of the Stockholm Y. M. C. A., which has a building valued at \$120,000. He is a leader in the Association movement among his countrymen.

The United Presbyterian of Pittsburg in noting what is going on in Canada, says: "Canada seeks to develop its own resources by a fast line of steamers for direct trade with Europe, and for this asks large subsidies from the English government. It is the usual mistake. Self-support is the basis of permanent prosperity. Canada's products are the true subsidy. When the country furnishes the freight and the owners of transportation lines give moderate rates, Canada will have its own lines. The suggestion is doubtless well-meant and is worth thinking over.

The authorities of the United States in the island of Mindanao have received a defiant message from the Sultan of Bacolod, belonging to the Moro tribes, and therefore a Mohammedan: We ask you to return to the sea because you should not be here among civilized Moros, for you are not circumcised. If you stay here we will fight you this month, and in no event do we wish to become your friends, because you eat pork. . . . We say to you, if you do not wish to leave this region, Come here and the Sultan will sacrifice you, and if you do not wish to come we will come to you and fight.

Prof. Virchow died at Berlin on September 5, aged nearly eighty-one years. No man had more deeply influenced modern medicine. His greatest discovery was that of the cellular nature of animal tissue. Besides being the world's greatest pathologist, Prof. Virchow, in earlier life, was emphatically a man of affairs, taking a part in politics. He was a Liberalist, and so strongly against the Imperial Government that at one time Bismarck challenged him to fight a duel, which, fortunately never came off. In 1873, however, he supported Prince Bismarck in the stern measures by which Bismarck and Dr. Falk established the Supremacy of the State over the Roman Catholic Church.

Roman Catholics are clamoring for an impossible thing, says the Herald and Presbyter when they demand that Protestant missionaries shall be kept out of the Philippines and Porto Rico. One of the bed-rock principles of our Government is that there shall be no public interference with any form of religion, and that people shall be protected in the free exercise of their religion as such. We have no edicts against Mormonism, even although we have laws against the immorality of polygamy. We do not interdict Spiritualism or Theosophy or Roman Catholicism, and as a matter of course, we are not to have any laws stifling Protestantism, which is itself the very hope and safeguard of the public.

An interesting side-light on the character of Bret Harte is thrown by William Black in one of his letters addressed to Sir Wemyss Reid in 1880, and included in Reid's biography of Black, published by the Harpers. "And in a few weeks' time don't be surprised if Bret Harte and I come and look you up," writes Black—"that is, if he is not compelled for mere shame's sake to go to his consular duties (!!) at once. He is the most extraordinary globule of mercury—comet—aerolite gone drunk—flash of light ning doing catherine wheels—I ever had any experience of. Nobody knows where he is, and the day before yesterday I discovered here a pile of letters that had been slowly accumulating for him since February, 1879. It seems he never reported himself to the all-seeing Escott (the hall porter), and never asked for letters when he got his month's honorary membership last year. People are now sending letters to him from America addressed to me at Brighton! But he is a mystery and the cause of mystifications."

A large number of leading Republican journals in the United States coincide with the opinion expressed in the Iowa Republican platform favoring "such changes in the tariff from time to time as may become advisable through the progress of our industries and their changing relations to the commerce of the world," and favoring, further, "any modification of the tariff schedules that may be required to prevent their affording shelter to monopoly." The conclusion that these Republican advisers seem to arrive at is that the time has come to repair the present Dingley tariff. Canada is not going to be in any hurry to send a delegation to Washington to ask for freer trade relations, but the people of this country would do well to note the progress of the tariff reform movement over the border.

The recent Indian census of 1901 enables us to form an idea of the status of Christianity in that part of the British dominions. The total number put down as Christians was 2,923,349, of whom 1,511,749 were males and 1,411,600 females. According to the census of 1891, the Christians numbered 2,284,380, so that there has been an increase during the decade of 638,969, or about 28 per cent., a growth much greater than that of the general population. Out of the total for 1901, 160,739 belonged to European and allied races, while 89,251 were Eurasians and 2,664,359 were natives. The increase of native Christians was 12 per cent. The Christian population of India is about 1 per cent. of the total. Ordinarily the annual increment of the population exceeds the total number of Christians returned. The Madras presidency contains 1,934,480, or nearly two-thirds of all the Christians in India, and to the 638,969 increase of the last decade it contributed no fewer than 351,201.

Some people say the Bible is becoming a much-neglected book and is losing its popularity. Will these people then explain why it is that the printing of Bibles goes on apace—the popular demand for it shows no sign of falling. The fact is, the "higher criticism" so called, and other attacks made upon the Bible, have given a widespread stimulus to study of the Word of God and created an increased demand for the Book of Books, which is further increased by the opening up of many countries to missionary enterprise. Harper's Weekly says: "Despite the many millions of Bibles already in existence, the annual demand for the old book is far greater than that for the new novel that everybody seems to be reading. The past few years have seen more new editions of the Bible than of any other book, and many more are in preparation. . . . If the new Bibles are not being read, for what purpose were they bought? They are not thrown away, nor can they be found in the second hand book stores." And the United Presbyterian of Pittsburg, Pa., adds: "Judged by the generally accepted standard, the Bible is the most popular book of the times." The Word of the Lord endureth forever.