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Note and Comment.

The Presbyterian General Assembly, in session at Buffalo, adopted the committee report recommending that ministers refuse to marry divorced persons.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland has decided against adopting the uniform version of the metrical psalms existing in Canada and the United States.

There are 1,000,000 lepers in India, China, and Japan, and 2,000 in the United States. A society has existed for thirty years to provide asylums for lepers and to care for their untainted children; and in Canada money is raised to help in this good work.

The action of Russia in scattering floating mines in the open sea has caused much criticism in European capitals, but England and France regard the present an inopportune time to make protest against the planting of mines in the open sea off Manchuria.

The first collected edition of Mr. Bliss Carman's poems is announced by Messrs. Scott-Thaw Company, New York. It is to be a limited edition of five hundred copies, small folio, on hand-made paper, and rubricated throughout. The contents of Mr. Carman's nine former volumes of verse are included without omissions, supplemented by a number of poems which have so far appeared only in periodicals.

It is a curious coincidence that the two Archbishops of the Church of England are grandsons of Scottish Presbyterian ministers. Archbishop Randall Davidson's grandfather was minister of Inchtute, then of the Outer High Church, Glasgow, and latterly of Tolbooth Parish Church, Edinburgh. He was a popular preacher and a man of personal charm. Archbishop Maclagan, of York, is the grandson of a man who was famous in his day, Dr. William Dalrymple, of Ayr.

A lumberman's reading-room has been established by the Endeavorers of Glengarry county, Ontario, where some of Ralph Connor's sturdy heroes came from. The camp is in the Algoma district, north of Lake Huron. The Endeavorers have equipped the room with a library, pictures for the walls, a cottage organ, reading-tables, games, and various decorations. In appreciation of this good work, the lumbermen have named the log building "Glengarry Camp."

Twenty-eight years ago Ontario had a licensed place for the sale of liquor to every 278 of its inhabitants. Today there is only one license to every 700 inhabitants. In 1867 Ontario issued 6,125 licenses. In 1903 the total issue numbered 2,900. Yet, notwithstanding this great reduction in licenses, which works in the direction of making the selling of liquor a monopoly in some sections,

hotelkeeping is today a less profitable business than it was a quarter of a century ago. The explanation is found in increased license fees, the high prices of liquors, caused by the heavy excise charges, and the change in the habits of the people.

Presbyterian Standard: There are more than two and a quarter millions of members of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States and Canada. The Brooklyn Eagle says that they over-emphasize the importance of belief. But belief and character are mutually dependent and not contradictory or even to be contrasted one with another. And The Brooklyn Eagle knows in its soul that some way Presbyterianism makes for character.

A custom prevails among parents in Denmark of exchanging their children during the summer holidays. The little ones from the villages go to town, and are all the better and brighter for their knowledge of the city life and what the world is doing. The little city folk are sent to be refreshed by the country air, and come back with rosy cheeks and robust constitutions.

The question of a tunnel between England and France under the English Channel is again under consideration. It is fifty years since it was first proposed and it is a significant evidence of the advancement of modern engineering over that of fifty years ago that the estimated cost of the work was then \$50,000,000 whereas now it has been reduced to \$20,000,000. No doubt the present cordial relation between the countries has much to do in encouraging promoters of the project to agitate it at this time. As it was opposed by the British military authorities then, so it is likely to be opposed by them still as a menace to the country in the event of war.

Can you tell the size of the British Empire? The British Empire occupies about one fifth of the surface of the habitable globe. It consists of the United Kingdom, with its attendant islands, and about forty-three dependencies under separate and independent governments. These vary in size from Canada, which is thirty times the size of the United Kingdom, to Gibraltar, the area of which is two square miles. The area of the British Empire is ninety-eight times that of the United Kingdom, while the area of the self governing colonies alone is nearly sixty times as large as that of the mother country.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, (North) is the first great ecclesiastical body to act on the recommendation of the Inter-Church Conference on Marriage and Divorce, which we have already quoted, and which would forbid the ministers of the church adopting it to "unite in marriage any person or persons whose marriage such ministers have good reason to believe is forbidden by the laws of the Church in which such person or persons, seeking to be married may hold membership." In the

course of the debate it developed that the adoption of the resolution would preclude the re-marriage of members of the Roman Catholic Church, no matter what the cause of their divorce, the Roman church not recognizing divorce for any cause. The Assembly did not feel ready to accept such a position, holding that Scriptures provide for divorce for certain causes, and being unwilling to bind its ministers by other than the Scriptural law as interpreted by their own church. The resolution submitted by the Inter Church Conference was adopted only when so amended as to limit its application to Protestant churches.

The Abbe Loisy, the French biblical critic whose alleged heresies have provoked widespread discussion both in Europe and this country, has forwarded to the Vatican what is described as his third formula of submission. It is stated that the distinguished theologian, while not compromising his integrity as a scientific historian and exegete, has expressed his submission in terms which conform more closely than before to Roman standards of orthodoxy. "At the same time," says the London *Church Times* (Anglican), "the Pope is understood to have written to the Cardinal-Archbishop of Paris urging him to deal gently with the abbe, errors rather than persons being the subjects of ecclesiastical censure. If the Pope can help it, Abbe Loisy will not be driven out of the church; but it remains to be seen who is the real head of the Roman Church, the so called supreme Pontiff, or the power behind the Pope."

The celebrated French statistician, Monsieur Ives Guyot, has recently published a most interesting work on the position of the Roman Church. Among other facts he gives a table which shows the growth of Roman Catholic European nations in millions of population—1801, 86.1; 1840, 116.2; 1900, 145.4. Including Russia, the eight non-Roman Christian countries increased from 77 millions in 1801 to 108.6 in 1840 and to 200.16 millions in 1900. In another table he shows the growth of the United States, Canada, and Australia from 5.5 millions in 1801 to 138.8 millions in 1840, and 85.0 millions in 1900. Finally, in a grouped table he displays the relation between the two groups, embracing South America. 1801, Roman Catholics, 96 millions; relative percentage, 51.0. Protestants and Schismatics, 92.6 millions; relative percentage, 49. 1900, Roman Catholics, 188 millions; relative percentage, 38.0. Protestants and Schismatic, 285.4 millions; relative percentage, 62.0. He remarks that in 1801 the Roman and other Christian forces were almost equal; now Protestants and members of the Greek Church represent almost two-thirds of the Christian world. In these countries they either do not permit the establishment of Friaries, or force the Orders to submit to the common law. As Monsieur I Guyot has a European reputation, his figures have an unique authority among those who have written on the question.