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NOTE AND COMMENT

Japan is preparing to celebrate the semi-centennial of Protestant missions, as two years ago Christian China celebrated the centenary of her missions.

Mohammedanism has about 200,000,000 followers. In Turkey, 18,000,000; Russia, 14,000,000; India, 62,000,000; China, 33,000,000; Persia, 9,000,000; Africa, 5,000,000.

In one of the briefest wills ever recorded, only ninety-six words Mr. Harriman leaves his wife the sole disposer of one of the greatest fortunes, estimated at between \$70,000,000 and \$150,000,000.

Though the consumption of liquor in India has increased 400 per cent. in twenty-five years, it is claimed on good grounds that of the 70,000 men in the British military stationed in India, 30,000 are members of the Royal Army Temperance Association.

The Methodist ministers throughout Ohio, in conference with their church officers, have decided that all clocks shall be removed from the bodies of their churches on the ground that their presence tends to distract the congregations and to lessen the influence of the minister over his hearers.

The English Captain Scott, who is planning to lead a British expedition to the Antarctic in 1910, has had application for enlistment from seven thousand men and boys. Probably the most of the applicants are boys, yet there are plenty of men eager to go. A man, unless an officer, has little to gain, even in reputation.

A native in Africa says:—"Two white men have come; both tell me I am wrong, and each tells me a different way to do right. The English missionary says I must leave off my sin and trust and believe God's Son. The Catholic missionary takes off my fetich from my neck—a piece of wood tied with a cord—and puts in its place another piece of wood or brass with a cord, and tells me that can save me."

Some Korean disciples are living on millet, selling their rice, that they may have the difference in value between these two foods to aid in spreading the Gospel among their fellow countrymen. At one meeting, a native disciple, having little or no money to give, offered in personal work and without any compensation 169 days, or over one-half the working days of a full year, and was followed by others with offers of a similar sort.

In the address of Sir Joseph Thomson on His Installation as president of the British Association, he declares that the heat received by the earth from the sun on a clear day is equivalent to 7,000 horse-power an acre. On the basis of this he predicts that engineers will finally succeed in utilizing this power, making it furnish the energy for the world's work when coal is exhausted.

In the Hawaiian Islands Chinese labor has proved better suited and more helpful to the conditions than that of any other class, and there is no such prejudice to contend with as in California. The Chinese have more home life, and are regarded on the whole as a desirable factor in the population. There is a disposition to admit them more freely than in the mainland States. The Missionary Herald thinks the experiment is well worth trying as a possible key to both political and missionary perplexities.

The death is announced of Sir Thos. Bent, ex-Premier of Victoria. Sir Thomas was one of the most interesting figures in Australian State politics. He was bluff and hearty, cheerfully eccentric, one of his amusing oddities being that of bursting into song during his social or political speeches. He once said that no Minister was worth his salt who could not sing a good song or recite well.

Closed doors often signify a call of God to enter them. The fact that seemingly insurmountable difficulties are in the way is many times but a challenge to surmount them. A recent graduate of Cambridge, England, said that he was called to be a missionary to South America because some parts of that continent were closed to Protestant missionaries. Such barriers are there only to be torn down. Unless God has blocked our path, let us hammer our way through.

The Parliament in Constantinople has voted a million dollars for relief work in Armenia, half of which is to be devoted to the rebuilding of houses. The great need at present is the care of the orphans. In many places the children are running in the streets without proper care and protection. The great majority of those needing assistance are women and children, most of the men having been massacred.

Said the North American of Philadelphia at the close of a recent able and extended editorial: "There is not a distillery nor a brewery that could be traded for enough money to buy a line of advertising for beer or whiskey in the North American. We do not want your advertisements. We do not solicit them. When they are offered unsolicited we reject them." Is there any daily paper in Canada to-day excepting the Montreal Witness, that can make such a statement?

Lord Kinnaird has broken ground for the New Y.M.C.A. central building in London, to be erected in Tottenham Court Road, not far from the famous Whitefield Tabernacle. It is to cost \$750,000, to be a memorial to Sir George Williams, the founder and father of all Y.M.C.A. work; and will be not only a building for lectures and reading-rooms, gymnasiums, etc., but a hostelry to accommodate hundreds of young men. Some twenty nations were represented in the turning of the sod.

The Christian Statesman is not satisfied with the articles in the recent issues of the Cosmopolitan Magazine criticizing the religious conditions of educational institutions in America. It says the conclusions were drawn from the situation which the writer found in less than a score of institutions. A canvass is being made of other universities and five hundred smaller colleges of the United States. The result of this canvass will appear in the November issue of the Christian Statesman.

Interesting discoveries have recently been made at Knossos, including a stone sepulchral chamber with a pavilion-shaped roof, in the same style as the royal tomb, and dating, as appears from the pottery found on the spot, from a relatively early period—the "Third Middle Minoan," probably about the eighteenth century before Christ. The tomb has been plundered, but still contains some important relics, including a fine gold-mounted ritzgio, showing a huge Mollisian dog with two men. Encouraged by these finds, antiquarians are to begin preliminary excavations at Mount Iuktus, the traditional "tomb of Zeus."

A paper in announcing a congress of Catholic missionaries to meet at Washington adds that the purpose of the congress is "to discover the best means of making America dominantly Catholic." To which Harper's Weekly promptly replies: "Don't make it so gentlemen. It would not be good for your church, which has done best when it was not dominant. The best possible thing for the Roman Catholic Church anywhere is a strong (but not bitter) Protestant 'opposition.' That sharpens zeal and restrains despotism on both sides."

A century ago the subject of prison reform was a most important one. The treatment of prisoners was often brutal. Sanitary measures were not understood; and the condition of many prisoners was pitiable. There is still need of improvement in many county jails and in smaller prisons not in a proper condition. Nothing is gained by undermining the health of the prisoners, or by spreading disease, perhaps outside prison walls. But prisoners are not to be provided with the comforts of a first-class hotel; and there are some sentimentalists who would make a prison one of the most desirable places of residence in the country. A prisoner's life ought to be hard. A prison should be a place that even the most worthless tramp will shun.

A recently published map prepared by order of the Department of the Interior furnishes much valuable information respecting the disposition and present position of lands in the three prairie provinces. The following are outstanding facts:

Total area surveyed, 134,000,000 acres; parish and river lot settlements, 620,647 acres, and forest reserves, 2,288,800 acres, excluded.

Total area under homestead pre-emption and purchased, homestead entry, including patented homesteads, chiefly even-numbered sections, 37,963,200 acres.

Total area granted to railway companies on account of land subsidies, chiefly odd-numbered sections, 31,864,074 acres.

Total area school land endowment (unsurveyed area not included), 7,085,000 acres.

Total area granted to Hudson's Bay Co., 6,565,000 acres.

Total area, otherwise disposed of, 11,286,966 acres (Manitoba swamp lands, sales, irrigation lands, Northwest half-breed scrip and military scrip).

The Moravians have always been ready to brave the Arctic cold, and their missions are found here and there along the Greenland and Labrador coast. The most northern missionary station in the world is said to be at Upernivik, Greenland. More familiar are we with the work of such men as Dr. Grenfell, the northern part of whose great parish includes many Eskimos, he being their main reliance for medical aid; and with Frank Cross' work at Wales, Alaska, whose church is entirely made up of Eskimos. Now that the attention of the world is centred upon polar explorations and incidentally upon the Eskimos, without whose assistance the goal of the explorer could never have been reached, it is gratifying to remember that for the space of two hundred years those odd specimens of humanity have been the object of missionary interest and service. Compared with what has been achieved in India, China, or Japan the Arctic mission work may seem meager, but the gospel has proved itself even there a redeeming and uplifting agency, and those who have carried it thither have furnished conspicuous examples of self-sacrifice and valor.