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Note and Comment.

Principal Rainy has a suspicion that a deal of the trouble in the Highlands is to be accounted for by the presence and the working of persons who are easily excited on religious subjects, but whose religion is not of the most trustworthy kind.

Although the Boer women have always been more bitter against the British than the men, kind treatment has so affected the Boer widows, who are refugees in the British camps that many of them are marrying British non-commissioned officers.

Figures based on the latest census returns show that in twenty of the largest cities and towns in Scotland there will be an inevitable reduction of 884 licenses, if Lord Peel's proposals are made law. The biggest reduction would be in Glasgow, to the extent of 423 licenses.

Rev. John McNeill is to care for the spiritual wants of visitors to the Glasgow Exhibition. He has commenced a series of noonday services in St. George's church, Glasgow, and will address open air meetings adjoining the grounds of the Exhibition three evenings each week.

At St. Johns, Newfoundland, Sir Cavendish Boyle accompanied by his secretary, Sir Charles Walpole, was sworn in on Monday as Governor of Newfoundland. He was well received, and the people of the colony are relying on his efforts to bring about confederation with Canada.

It is now announced that Lord Milner is to return to South Africa in August. On his return he will have more difficult problems to solve than ever before fell to the lot of a British pro consul. He is declared, however, to be one of the finest examples of many sided culture that have adorned British statesmanship for many years.

One of the King's pets, which has long been kept in the hall at Sandringham, is a small green parrot, which His Majesty purchased personally from a boy in Trafalgar Square while passing through there privately with his querry one day. The bird is a splendid talker. What has always been its favourite expression is a melancholy one now—"Now then, hip, hurrah for the Queen!"

For a considerable time interesting features will be constantly discovered in the census report of the United Kingdom. It is stated that the population, which is now 41,454,000, is almost exactly double what it was in 1821. Then England had little more than half the population of the United Kingdom, now she has three-fourths. Scotland and Wales have each more than doubled their inhabitants, but Ireland has declined from 6,801,000 in 1821 to 4,456,000 in 1901. The population of Greater London has just doubled in the last forty years, and stands today at 6,580,000.

Rev. Dr. Macleod has received from "A Friend of the Church" the promise of £7000 for church extension in Glasgow, £1000 to be paid on the completion of each of seven churches proposed to be built in necessitous localities.

The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall have reached New Zealand on their trip round and through the British Empire. Their reception was said to even surpass in enthusiasm that of Australia. Though even more democratic than the larger Colony, New Zealand is no less heart and soul with the mother country.

The London Regent Square session have decided to recommend the congregation to place an organ in the church at the earliest possible date. Rev. A. Connell, in making the announcement, said they had hitherto enjoyed the distinction of being the only Presbyterian congregation in England devoid of an organ.

Sir James Grant, of Ottawa, president of the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, approves of the action of the United States authorities in barring out persons suffering from tuberculosis, and says that similar action has been recommended to the Canadian Government by the association. It is thought that the rule will prevent many consumptives from leaving Canadian homes for milder climates in the Southern and Western states, notably for Colorado and California.

There is another good story being told of the Rev. John McNeill's experiences in the Far North on a recent evangelical trip. In course of a service he invited the congregation to join in singing the 256th Hymn. The precentor looked up from the "letterin'" and said, "We dinna sing hymns here." "Oh," said Mr. McNeill, "then we will sing the 43d Paraphrase." Again the precentor intervened with the remark, "We dinna sing Paraphrases here!" "Very well, then," said the rev gentleman, "let us sing 'Lord bless and pity us!'"

On Thursday last Glasgow University conferred the degree of D. D. on 22 clergymen, and the honorary degree of L. L. D. on 117 gentlemen and 3 ladies. The D. D.'s include Professors Briggs and Brown, of the Union Theological Seminary, New York, and the Rev. Mr. McComb, of Kingston, Canada. The L. L. D.'s include Mr. Cooper, of San Francisco; Mr. Andrew Carnegie, of New York and Skibo; Mr. Farlow, of Boston; Mr. Gayley, of California; Prof. Haupt, of John Hopkins University; Pres. Loudon, of Toronto; Mr. MacGregor, of Nova Scotia; Mr. Manly, of Missouri; Prof. Seymour, of Yale; Mr. Wenley, of Michigan; Prof. White, of Cornell University; Mr. Charlemagne Tower, the American Ambassador to Russia; Lord Dufferin, General Sir. Archibald Hunter, and General Ian Hamilton. This is the first time that the University has conferred the degree of L. L. D. on a woman.

Sir Claude MacDonald, who was the British Minister to China at the time of the siege of Peking, and who is now British Minister to Japan, arrived at San Francisco on Thursday last en route to Great Britain. He is accompanied by Lady MacDonald. In an interview he states that the Chinese had received a severe lesson but whether they would pay the indemnity demanded by the Powers was problematical.

Considerable interest has been evinced, says the N. Y. Scottish American Journal, in the forthcoming translation of the New Testament in Broad Scotch, by the Rev. William Wye Smith, whose name has frequently been in these columns, and who first registered his claim as an authority on "Scotch" is the Scottish expert on the Standard Dictionary. There seems to have been great delays in the getting out of the book; but Mr. Smith now writes us that a letter from the publisher, Mr. Alexander Gardiner, Paisley, dated about 20th May, the work is promised in two months. It is announced in Gardiner's last list as "in press" Mr. Smith's address is St. Catherines, Ontario.

"Kind hearts are more than coronets" The visit of the Duke and Duchess of York to Australia has furnished a touching incident. The Duchess called at Sydney Hospital incognito, and went through the wards. On one of the beds lay a little boy. The Duchess halted there and asked the patient what was wrong. The reply came, "I've broke my leg." Her Royal Highness wished to know how the accident came about. It was all very simple and boyish. "I fell off a fence trying to see the Duchess, and I never saw her after all!" A pretty little situation truly! The Duchess of York immediately told the boy who she was, and said, "You can see me now all to yourself. That boy wasn't sorry he fell off the fence."

John Alexander Dowie, objects to the Chicago doctors calling him a paranoiac, but his delaration, at a meeting in Zion Tabernacle on Sabba h evening, that certain physicians had formed a plot to kidnap him, lock him in a detention hospital, and beat him on the head and back until he should lose all his reasoning powers and become really insane, would indicate mental derangement. Mr. Dowie intimated that the kidnapping might take place that night, and after his service he called a special meeting of the male members of Zion to take steps to help the Zion guard in protecting him. He also threatened to do to the physicians as he thought they were trying to do to him, unless they should let him alone and stop calling him scientific names. All this does not accord with Dowie's repeated claims that he is Elijah reincarnated, making way for the end of the world. Here is a suggestion. It is an easy thing for the followers of Dowie to find out if he really is Elijah. All they have to do is to withhold contributions for awhile and see if the ravens will feed him.