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NOTE AND COMMENT

St. Andrew's University, Scotland, is making preparations for the celebration of its five hundredth anniversary next year.

The last enumeration of missionaries in China gives their number as 3,270. The native Church is doubling about every seven years, and the missionary force every ten years.

Two physicians in Honolulu announce that they have isolated the germs of leprosy and are trying to discover a toxin for the disease. Experiments will soon be made at the leper colony in the island.

Professor Samuel Ross Winans, dean of Princeton University from 1899 to 1903, died at his home in Princeton. He had been actively connected with the Princeton faculty since 1878, and at the time of his death was professor of Greek and instructor of Sanskrit.

Sir Ernest Satow, who has had over thirty years' experience of Japan, China and the East, in the Consular and diplomatic services, remarked recently at a school prize distribution, that we heard a great deal about the efficiency of education in other countries, but in every part of the world where he had lived found Englishmen, Scotsmen, Irishmen, Welshmen, and even Channel Islanders leading the foreign community.

Agitation against indecent literature, so active in France, has reached Germany. The bookstall keepers of the German railway stations have formed a "syndicate" or union, one of the articles of which forbids the sale of immoral books, and another lays all members under obligation to bring before the public prosecutor any non-union stall keeper who continues to deal in such literature.

The Rev. R. J. Patterson, the founder of the "Cretch-My-Pal" movement, has been released from the charge of Third Armagh, says The Belfast Witness, so that he will now be free to devote his whole time and superabundant energies to the cause with which he has been specially identified, and which has been hitherto crowned with so much success. It has inaugurated a new temperance crusade, which promises to revolutionize the country. And no man is better fitted for an undivided head than his father and founder. We must all wish every success to him and to the movement.

The danger of moving picture shows is pointedly shown forth in the following taken from the New York Christian Advocate of the 11th inst:—A youth of nineteen, nervously unsettled by a trying occupation, sought recreation at a moving picture show in Newark, N. J., last Saturday. The "entertainment" included a realistic suicide by gas-inhalation, enacted with vivid and horrible detail. The boy went to his lodgings, stopped keyhole and door cracks, as the pictured suicide had done, turned on the illuminating gas, and set his soul adrift into the great darkness. He was found dead on Sunday morning. If a manhole cover in the highway is off, the authorities put up a warning or a barrier, lest a brute fall in and suffer harm. But the moving picture show had a license from the authorities to keep its more dangerous pitfall open on the public way, and to lure men into it. This is a sensational case, but it shows at the worst a baneful influence which is being allowed almost free course for the corruption of youth under the guise of harmless amusement.

The Methodist church is beginning work in Iceland. The island was settled eleven hundred years ago from Norway, and has been under Danish control for about six hundred years. The Icelanders are Scandinavians and their religion is the Evangelical Lutheran.

Eight aviators started from Paris in the \$20,000 cross-country race. Leblanc covered the first lap, Paris to Troyes, 83 miles, in an hour and 33 minutes. Weymann, the American, reached Troyes after several stops. The full distance to be covered in the event is 485 miles.

Accidents have already shown that danger from airships and aeroplanes is even greater to the spectators, and to others on the ground, than to the man who flies. Enormous damage has already been done to telegraph and telephone wires. In Germany there are police regulations to prohibit "flying to the common danger." It is an offense to fly over the streets or buildings of a city.

The criminal who escapes the penitentiary does not go scot free, remarks the Lutheran Observer. He carries his punishment with him in his self-knowledge and self-scorn. He may go where he will, but is forced to confess with Milton's fallen angel, "Which way I fly is hell—myself am hell." The very constitution of nature, his own and that of the world in which he lives, fights against the criminal. No solid, enduring happiness is to be found beyond the borders of righteousness. He who thinks so and acts upon his thought is obliged to confess that if playing the part of an evil-doer he has at the same time played the fool. In incurring guilt he has also tasted the bitterness of utter disappointment.

If "imitation is the sincerest flattery," the following account of a ceremony, which we take from the Christian World, should be flattering to the followers of Christ. But mingled with this feeling will be the sense of surprise that such parodies of Christian forms and ceremonies are deemed necessary by those who have parted company with the evangelical faith. There are traces of Christian Science, paganism, and other forms of relief in the account, but Christians should feel impressed by the statement that after searching for a text elsewhere the speaker found one in the teachings of Jesus. This, we believe, is as naive a confession as has been seen in print in a long time. This is the story: A large congregation gathered at the Ethical Church, Baywater, on Sunday morning, when Dr. Stanton Colt conducted a special service for the recognition and dedication of children, among whom was his own little daughter. After the singing of the canticle, 'Painters have painted, etc. (Whitman), Dr. Colt read an appropriate selection from George Eliot. There was a short period of silent meditation, and then Dr. Colt called before him the parents who brought the children to be dedicated. These pledged themselves to train the little ones to think for themselves, to be high-minded and brave, to consider others and so act as to make the world happier for their having lived in it. Books containing selections from Marcus Aurelius and Thomas a Kempis, and ethical teaching were handed to the parents to be kept for the child until they had grown up; and on the head of each child Dr. Colt placed a small wreath of flowers, the congregation standing during this little ceremony. Later, Dr. Colt delivered a discourse on 'The Duty of Youthfulness,' in which he urged the importance of keeping young and maintaining the child spirit. He had searched the teachings of men like Plato and Socrates, but he had been forced to go for his text to the words of Jesus, who recognized the significance of the child spirit, and based His philosophy upon it."

The report of the committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws, shows the "thrifty Scot" in an entirely new light. Among the causes of poverty in Scotland, it says, are drunkenness, gambling, early marriages, want of ambition, and weakness of will, desertion of families by parents, neglect of children to support parents, improvidence, and thriftlessness.

Two mummies, supposed to be a couple of thousand years old, have arrived in Liverpool from Callao. They are remains of prehistoric Incas of Peru, and a present from Captain Gronow to the British Museum, a very valuable gift. Photographed before being packed, they looked like human bundles, one with a sort of crown jauntily on the side of his head, and one without; and, as a foreground, some ewers and ancient pottery which, coming from that far-off land of mystery and of silver add greatly to one's awe of what must have been going on in this world of ours in those distinct days.

A correspondent of the Belfast Witness writes:

If I am asked is Evangelical Religion decaying in this United Kingdom I say a thousand times No. On the contrary, it is growing and growing rapidly every day. The Gospel never was preached with greater freshness and power. Outside politics the character of the masses of the people is nobler and juster and braver than ever it was. There are more regenerate men and women in Great Britain and Ireland than ever here were before, more who love and serve Christ, and in spite of abounding worldliness, a greater number of His martyrs amongst us than ever.

There is a great rush to the show at Oberammergau, this season, and among the "devotees" are not a few Jews. The American Israelite just wonders, and calls them a "queer lot," "their oddness never more extraordinarily exemplified than when they go to see enacted in stage mimicry the crucifixion myth which, for so many centuries, has been used to make pariahs of them." Perhaps no people in the world are more fond of stage plays than are the Jews, and it does not matter much what it is, so it is something appealing to the senses. But, even in this they are not altogether peculiar. One wonders how much better Christians they are going to be who are witnessing the Oberammergau spectacle this summer. Will they be more faithful in their religious duties, pray better, give better, live better for having seen the "Passion Play?"

The government of India has ordered a considerable force of infantry and a mountain battery to hold themselves in readiness to go to any British agency there. It does not seem that the agency is directly threatened, but the situation in Tibet has not ceased to be disturbed since the Chinese entered Lhasa, the capital, last February. Earl Crew explained in the House of Lords that the government thought it was necessary to collect on the frontier a sufficient force to enable the British trade agencies in Tibet to have speedy aid in case there should be any immediate danger of an attack on them. He said, however, that the force would not cross the frontier unless the protection of British agencies rendered it necessary, and would not intervene between the Tibetans and the Chinese. If the force should enter Tibet, he continued, it would withdraw as soon as the situation permitted.