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NOTE-AND COMMENT.

The Celtic revival in Scotland is beginning to bear fruit. The Scottish Education Department intimates that it is prepared to arrange for examinations in the Gaelic language.

Dr. Grenfell, of the Labrador Mission, has had a most successful year. One great achievement has been the erection of an orphanage at St. Anthony, which has accommodation for twenty children.

A great movement is afoot in Germany for promoting friendly relations with Great Britain. Some sections of the press hail the result of the general election in the United Kingdom as a good augury of the success of the movement.

All parts of Africa, except Abyssinia, Morocco and Siberia, are controlled directly or indirectly by some European power. French Africa is about equal in area to nearly half the Dominion of Canada.

San Francisco is the first city in the western world to have a Hindu temple. One has been built there and is in charge of a Hindu priest named Swami Tregumatia. The congregation numbers about fifty.

Rev. W. J. Dawson, D.D., English preacher, who conducted evangelistic services last year in some of the eastern states and Canada, is to make his home in Taunton, Mass. He has purchased a home in that city and will bring his family in the spring.

The great bridge which spans the Yellow River is being rapidly pushed forward. This bridge will be a little over two miles long, and will have 102 spans, of which about forty are already completed. The bridging of "China's Sorrow" is a great engineering feat. The depth of the main current is thirty-three feet, and in flood times there are over forty feet of water.

A member of the Methodist Episcopal Mission in Poona, India, writes of the wonderful revival in Poona: "I have never seen Satan more manifest than he was in our work in the city the early part of the year, but on Monday last at my Workers' meeting I saw a most wonderful change and the workers seemed burdened for the souls of the people."

The Roman Catholic and Protestant clergy of the city of Quebec have united in presenting petitions to the Provincial Cabinet asking for a reduction in the number of hotel licenses in that city. The Provincial Premier, M. Gouin, promised to take the petition into serious consideration. In the meanwhile he suggested that delegates endeavor to secure the support of the press, which he believed, could do much in the matter.

The gift of \$40,000 to the scheme of a new residence for the University of Toronto from Mr. E. C. Whitney, Ottawa, together with the \$50,000 from the Ontario government, and other subscriptions, making a total so far of about \$160,000, places the project now, according to the chairman of the committee, Mr. Z. A. Lash, K.C., on a firm financial footing.

The Brantford Expositor records the case of a woman whose mind has become affected by reading trashy novels. It is said that she read as many as two dozen of these stories in a week. That in itself was an evidence of insanity. People should cultivate a taste for profitable reading. Books that at first may seem dry will begin to interest when the reader feels that he is being instructed.

Accorrespondent of the "London Mail" writes to that paper inquiring if there is any place where there are no thunderstorms. The editor replies: "Yes, Cork Harbor. The cross drafts of the harbor resist them. The heat is never excessive; even lately, though greater than usual, it has always been tempered by a cool breeze in the mouth of the harbor."

When the World's Christian Endeavor Convention for 1906 is held in Geneva, Switzerland, an English service will be held in the great cathedral of St. Peter where John Calvin preached. A large attendance at this convention is expected from French, German, British and American Endeavorers. The hymns to be used will be printed in French, German and English. The speakers represent at least a dozen different languages.

The statistics of the English Presbyterian Church's Foreign Mission in Formosa, furnished by the Rev. D. Ferguson, of Tainan, show a total membership at October 31, 1905, of 5,304. This includes baptized children. The communicants number close on 3,000, the net increase for the year being 230. This mission is supported mainly by the Sunday schools of the Church.

The Chinese army will in a few years number 1,250,000. Her army already numbers 400,000, all well armed and equipped with modern field guns. China has recently ordered a million rifles, and seems disposed to confront the evil of heavy taxation in order to develop her military strength. Heretofore China has been a peaceful nation and the rest of the civilized world has imposed upon her. Possibly she will be treated more respectfully if she shows herself equipped for her own protection.

A correspondent of the "London Mail" that the Chinese are pleased at the result of the anti-American boycott in producing conciliatory orders from President Roosevelt, but the boycott is nowise ended and, it is asserted here, continues seriously to affect American trade in the Canton and Yangtze regions. The Chinese are so satisfied with the movement that they are talking of the boycott as a permanent weapon. The newspapers advocate the boycott of Indian opium because the British assessor of the mixed court at Shanghai ordered the imprisonment of Chinese women in the municipal jail instead of in the Chinese prison, which caused the recent disturbances there.

A gentleman told us recently, says the Herald and Presbyter, of his experience as a boy in attendance upon St. Xavier College, a Roman Catholic institution of Cincinnati. Although raised a Protestant he was, for some reason, sent to this school for two years. The first year he was, by special request and arrangement, excused from religious exercises. The second year his attendance was insisted upon and, one day, he was called into the principal's office, closely questioned, and pressingly urged to give up his faith and adopt Roman Catholicism. Refusing to do this, positively, he was made, in coming days, to understand that he was in sore disfavor, by reason of poor marks, neglect and demerits. Fortunately he was able to leave the school, soon after, and realizes from his own personal experience that Roman Catholic schools, as far as Protestants are concerned, are simply proselyting institutions. This is something that many Protestants in this country need to keep in view when urged to send their children to Catholic institutions to receive "a finished" education. The "finish" is too often disappointing and disheartening.

At the last meeting of Yorkshire Presbytery some strong statements were made regarding the action of a member in accepting the call and becoming inducted into the Rothney church without tendering his resignation to the Presbytery. The Rev. W. Johnson, Leeds, said that some of those who had very great respect for Mr. Stirling, (the member in question) regarded his conduct with amazement, and the secretary (the Rev. P. Duncan Hall) expressed strong disapproval of a minister leaving his church without supply. We do not remember a case of the kind in our Canadian church.

It is eminently healthy, remarks the Christian Guardian, to see all religious bodies uniting their forces where moral issues are concerned. In Quebec City lately a deputation of Roman Catholic and Protestant clergymen waited upon the government of the province, urging a reduction of the liquor licenses of the city from one hundred and fifty to one hundred. Their plea was the demoralizing effect of drink, especially upon the working classes, and we have no doubt their united effort would have great weight with the government. The day, we hope, is very near when on all moral questions all those who profess to be Christ's followers will stand together as a unit.

The report of the British and Foreign Bible Society shows that the issues for the last year were as follows: Bibles, 942,024; New Testaments, 1,366,074; portions, 3,546,947; total, 5,857,645. The totals of issues since 1803 are 192,537,746 copies of the Scriptures, complete or in parts. Of these more than 77,000,000 have been in English. To carry them far and wide and to offer them from door to door, the society employed 850 colporteurs throughout last year as a cost of about \$225,000. They sold over 2,250,000 copies, a number far above all previous records. With regard to translation, two years ago the number of languages, etc., stood at 370. Last year these had risen to 378. It is now 390.

Ohio is the only state of the American union that publishes regular statistics on divorce. At the end of 1905 there were 11,746 divorce cases on the docket of the Ohio courts, while during the year 4,124 decrees were granted. These figures show that there was last year one divorce for every nine marriages. In 1875 there was one divorce for every 25 marriages in Ohio, and in 1890 one for every 15. These figures, for one state only, are contrasted with 19 divorces in Canada in 1904, 308 in the United Kingdom, 591 in Italy, and 8037 separations in Germany. It is alleged that in Chicago a newly-wedded bride obtained a divorce on the ground that she had a dream in which she saw her husband kissing another woman.

A writer in the Herald and Presbyter describes the "praying church" in the following pertinent paragraph: "The Christian church began in prayer. After Christ's ascension the disciples 'continued with one accord in prayer.' When persecution began they prayed, 'and when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were filled with the Holy Ghost.' The early church was a praying church. The modern church should turn to pray, or more than it does. When a church or the individual members of church want to be revived and consecrated to the Lord's service, they should take lessons in prayer from the early Christians—get down on their knees and plead in faith for a Penticostal blessing. God is still the hearer and answerer of prayer."