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Note and Comment.

It is a hopeful sign of the times that a number of American railway corporations have placed a veto on liquor drinking and card playing on their passenger trains. Why cannot such a wholesome innovation be enforced by Canadian railway managers?

The Chinese have many excellent traits of character. Those who labor among them declare their worth. The heroism of the Chinese Christians in the late uprising of the Boxers shows of what stuff they are made. The old slander that the converts were "rice-Christians" will never dare to lift its head again.

The Rev. Dr. Jamieson, the senior minister of the Cathedral Church of Old Machar, Aberdeen, Scotland, has passed away full of years and honour. He was one of the two surviving ministers of the Church of Scotland whose ordination dated from the Disruption, and now the Rev. Robert Ross, of Cruden, is the only one, and the father of the Church. Dr. Jamieson worked to the last.

Christianity is before the Japanese nation as never before in these modern days. The year 1901 witnessed a wonderful awakening and the present year is continuing the active campaign against the evil one. The work of 1900 added only about 650 to Protestant church membership; that of 1901 added more than 4,000. "Not by might nor power, but by my spirit," was the motto, and God wonderfully blessed the Japanese Christians as they rallied under this banner.

The untold treasures at the bottom of the sea may be revealed and recovered before long. A great steel egg, with steel hands and arms capable of holding two men and carrying them to the ocean bed, has been invented by an Italian, Cavaliere Pino, and bids fair to revolutionize modern diving. Through heavy crystal windows the occupants of the egg can observe their strange surroundings. The egg moves by electricity on a single wheel, and can be guided at will. An account of the invention and a picture of it when in action appeared in Harper's Weekly.

The postponement of the publication of Miss Mary Johnston's promised novel, *Sir Mortimer*, has been announced and received with regret. The delay has been caused by the condition of the author's health, impaired by too close application to work, and has unavoidably prevented the completion of her work. The romance was destined to follow Mrs. Ward's "Lady Rose's Daughter" in Harper's Magazine. It will appear in the Magazine in due course and will afterwards be issued in book form. Miss Johnston has been passing some time in the South, and is very much improved in health.

The marked decline in drunkenness and in the consumption of liquor in Switzerland and Russia, since these governments took entire control of the liquor business has brought the French house of deputies to re-

commend that France adopt the same system. This causes the Presbyterian Standard to remark: "The time is coming when the man who putteth a bottle to his neighbor's lips to make him drunken will find not only the Divine curse resting on him, but the additional damnation of being put out of his job all over the world. That may also be his salvation." The time is not far distant it is steadily coming—when even moderate drinkers will find themselves barred from all positions of trust and responsibility. They will have to take the "small jobs" given up by sober men who have been promoted.

It will be remembered that when the Scottish curlers visited Canada last winter, they paid a Sunday visit to Niagara Falls, for which they were severely taken to task by several Toronto ministers, including Dr. Miligan of St. Andrew's church. The Glasgow Leader, noting Dr. Miligan's censure of the party, points out that at an entertainment in Edinburgh, after their return to Scotland, Rev. John Kerr, one of the party, in speaking of their reception and doings in Canada, "made no reference to what was undoubtedly the most painful incident of the whole town;" and adds: "Scotland has always been famed for its regard of the Sabbath. Our good name is leaving us, and if all our ministers follow the example of Mr. Kerr, this good name will soon be but a memory."

Dr. Griffith John, speaking recently at the annual meeting of the Central China Religious Tract Society in Hankow, stated that last year's circulation was "a record," being 1,700,521. He could remember a time when it was only 9,000. At that time—1876, the year when the society was established—their ambition was to reach the million. To realize the extent of book distribution in China they must add the number sent by the Bible Society of Scotland, 471 Bibles, 13,031 Testaments, and 457,072 portions. Even the high Chinese officials were beginning to read them. The Church in China, of about 300 members when he arrived in that country, had grown to a church of 100,000 communicants at least, and two or three hundred thousand adherents besides.

Mr. Chas. Cook, F.R.G.S., who recently returned to England from a tour in Spain and Morocco, made for the express purpose of visiting the prisons, stands high in favour both with the Howard Association at home and Royal potentates abroad. He, therefore, gained entrance to all the prisons, even to those hitherto regarded as sealed to Englishmen, and was able to distribute Bibles and Testaments to all the inmates. In Morocco, too, he made arrangements whereby the prisoners shall have at least bread and water daily. Speaking at a Y. M. C. A. meeting in London Mr. Cook referred to the moral condition of Spanish priests, and told how, when speaking to a Spaniard regarding a Romanist bishop newly arrived in the district, he was met with the reply, "Well this one is not as bad as the last; the other maintained five 'establishments,' this one has only two."

As an evidence of the strength of the revolt in Austria against Rome, the municipal authorities in Teplitz, Bohemia, recently gave the nuns in their hospital six months notice, and passed a resolution to employ Protestant deaconesses instead of them. The members of the Board are nearly all Roman Catholics, and the few Protestant members took no part in the matter lest it should be said the vote was caused by religious jealousy. The ground of decision was that the nuns were incompetent, neglected the instructions of the physicians, adopted remedies of their own instead of those prescribed, such as the use of relics and insisting on patients going to chapel whom the doctors had forbidden to leave their beds, and that they were tampering with the religious beliefs of the patients. The same difficulty is experienced in hospitals in other places, but the limited number of Protestant deaconesses in many Austrian cities prevents such a radical departure being taken at present as has occurred in Teplitz.

The state attorney of Illinois has made the announcement that fifty six cases of murder are now pending in the Chicago courts. There has been discussion between the police authorities and some of the Chicago pastors as to the responsibility for this state of things. The Louisville Observer claims that the police officials of Chicago are very largely to blame, because they allow drinking saloons to continue business all night and on Sundays. This is one view of the case. On the other hand, (as the American Weekly puts it) "there are elements of weakness in the preaching of to-day. The lawside of religion is kept in abeyance; the fact of divine Fatherhood has been allowed to overshadow that of divine sovereignty, and the restraining influence which comes from the certainty of punishment has ceased to be strongly felt." Very true; but close up the saloons and four-fifths of the crime in great cities will disappear.

The whirligig of time compels people to unlearn a good many things cherished by their ancestors. It is now pretty definitely established that Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was not an Irishman but a Scotchman. And now we are on the verge of the discovery that he was a Presbyterian. The Presbyterian Standard of North Carolina makes the statement that St. Patrick went from Scotland to Ireland as a missionary, being already the son of a deacon and the grandson of a presbyter, and that he ordained a large number of bishops or pastors and of presbyters or elders for the 365 churches which he is said to have founded. This proves that there was already an existing form of Christianity among the ancient Scots. It would be natural to suppose that Patrick reduplicated in Ireland what he already knew in Britain." Following up the historical argument the same paper demonstrates to its own satisfaction at least—that the Anglican church was originally Presbyterian. The cause of its declension is not stated.