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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Italian physicians declare that the "American bars" established in their cities in recent years are responsible, with their iced drinks, for the increased number of serious cases of apoplexy in warm weather.

There are now about three hundred persons afflicted with leprosy within the United States, and two-thirds of these contracted the disease in that country. About half of the cases are in the State of Louisiana.

The United Presbyterian deserves credit for the following bit of condensed wisdom: "A living salary is more to be desired than fulsome eulogy, and a competent support is better than a bunch of resolutions after the pastor has resigned."

The government of India has lately decided to add one company of native Christians to each of the twelve Madras regiments. This is a new departure and a recognition of the numerical importance of Christians in the Empire.

Sir William Crookes' lecture on diamonds, before the British Association, in South Africa, cost approximately £600, including the experiments, one of which, the resolving of a diamond into graphite, was rather distressing to Kimberley diamond-seekers.

A quaint incident of the British Association's train journey to Bulawayo, South Africa, was the behaviour of some ostriches at Mochuli station, which stalked with stately gait along the train, peeping in at the windows, but disdainful of the offered dainties.

A recent issue of the Chicago Post gives a lively and appreciative sketch of the First Presbyterian Church of that city, and its pastor, Dr. John Archibald Morrison, late of St. David's Church, St. John, N.B. Dr. Morrison is the 8th pastor in 72 years. The church is now enjoying a period of great prosperity.

The Presbyterians of Michigan are to have an evangelistic campaign the coming winter. Sneaking of the campaign the Michigan Presbyterian says: "No matter what other plans our churches may make, if they do not make plans for reaching unevangelized souls with the Gospel of redemption through Jesus Christ they are failures."

The Rev. F. B. Meyer, says the Pacific Presbyterian, is about to inaugurate in London a social experiment somewhat similar to that which Bishop Potter tried in New York in the Subway Tavern. But there is this important difference—no liquor will be sold. Mr. Meyer's experiment will prove a blessing, and not a bane as did Bishop Potter's.

S. H. Morgan, ex-chaplain Huntsville State Penitentiary, Willis, Texas, says: "There are 23 prohibition counties in Texas that have no convict in the penitentiary; 9 have only one; 7 have only two. These 39 counties furnish only 23 convicts." In contrast with the 39 counties referred to above, it is pointed out that four counties with a population of 180,000 and liquor saloons have 185 convicts in the penitentiary. Taking the prohibition territory throughout, there is one convict to about 1,500 population. In whisky territory there is one convict to 500 population. On this basis the open saloon is responsible for two-thirds of all crime.

The Northern (U. S.) Presbyterian Church had seventeen hundred Indian members among the Sioux Indians, and their average gift to missions last year was a dollar and a half for each member.

Robert Morrison, the first Protestant missionary to China, died strong in the faith that the country would become Christian. Yet he labored in that country for twenty-seven years fighting against hatred, opposition, and persecution, and won by his efforts but two conversions. There is a lesson of faith that many of God's workers need to learn.

The question of the use of the Bible in the public schools—or the right to use it—is gradually being settled state by state, and wherever the issue has been fairly tried the result has been the same. Kentucky is the last state to pass upon the question, and the supreme court has decided that the Bible is not a sectarian book, and that it may be read without note or comment in the public schools.

An eminent German physician is authority for the statement that the beer-drinking districts show a high cancer mortality, notably Bavaria in Germany and Salzburg in Austria. This statement, in connection with the not to be forgotten arsenic poisoning epidemic which depleted the ranks of English beer drinkers two years ago, is not calculated to further establish the claim of harmlessness for malt beverages.

The Indiana Appellate Court has held that where a saloon-keeper, by the illegal sale of liquor, causes his customer to become drunken and quarrelsome, so that he kills another, he, the saloon-keeper, is liable in damages for the death of the murdered man. The saloon-keeper's bondsmen are liable for the payment of the damages in event the saloonman is not worth the amount of the judgment secured.

Zion's Herald "hits the nail on the head" in the whole nation rises, and says that the arrogant Dives shall go to state prison for a state prison offense, exactly like the humblest poor man, we shall begin to see the end of this hideous institution of corporate robbery, that has undertaken to convert America from the best land on the face of the globe for the poor man to positively the worst and wretchedest."

The great barrier of Islam, which makes Arabia as impenetrable as Tibet, can only be pierced by the direct intervention of the Holy Spirit. Representatives of the Arabian Mission of the Reformed Church of America, of the Mission of the United Free Church of Scotland at Aden, of the Church Missionary Society at Bagdad, and of the Danish Mission in the South unite in asking special prayer for Arabia and the Arabs. Here Christians everywhere can help.

It is told of Mrs. Ingalls that when she went to Burma and began to travel about with her tent and her Bible woman, in villages where the Gospel had never been preached, to tell the story of Redemption, people found fault with her. They said: This woman is assuming too much in beginning to preach like this. When she returned, the Missionary Board asked her if she had been preaching, and questioned her right to do so when she had never been ordained. "No," she said, "I have never been ordained, but fore-ordained to preach."

The Presbyterian Witness says that the ministers of the Presbyterian Synod of the Maritime Provinces are keenly alive to evangelistic work for the coming winter. "Sowing and reaping will go forward in winter as well as in summer." Have the ministers of the synod of Montreal and Ottawa, or of Ottawa Presbytery, made any resolutions with regard to evangelistic work the coming winter?

The Montreal license commissioners have decided to put a stop to trafficking in licenses, and have refused to grant a transfer of license there, although the sale had been made for the business, including the license, for the sum of \$15,800. The Ottawa license commissioners could not do better than make a note of what the Montreal license commissioners are doing. Their action is along the line of common-sense.

A writer in the Christian Evangelist of St. Louis says of Dr. Lyman Abbott's recent lecture in Columbus, Ohio, on "Jesus Christ as the Revelation of God," that it was a very strong and thoroughly spiritual teaching on that subject. At a conference while he was in Columbus, Dr. Abbott was asked, "Are you a Unitarian?" His reply was, "I am not. I accept the belief of all evangelical Christians in regard to Jesus. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Redeemer of Men."

"If people would eat plenty of rice, they would not need drugs to make them sleep," said a New York drug clerk, pausing for a moment in putting up a sleeping potion for a woman. "There is much said about rice as a strengthening food, but few Americans know that it has so powerful powers. If properly cooked, it has. Rice should be washed many times, until the water no longer appears milky. It should then be soaked a few hours, salted, and boiled rapidly about thirty minutes. When cooked in this way, it can be eaten each day with relish, and the person who eats it sleeps well all dreams not at all."

The Canadian Churchman endorses the action of the corporation of the city of London, in conferring "the freedom of London" on General Booth, the Salvation Army leader. That paper says: "No one can say that the 'Salvation Army' has not proved a mighty moral force amongst the vicious and defrauded members of society. We do not here purpose discussing their peculiar views on doctrinal subjects and—that they who, like the good Samaritan, seek and raise the fallen, bind up their wounds and pay for their necessities, are worthy not only of commendation, but—as regards their good work—of imitation. London has honored herself in honouring the friend of the poor, the outcast, and the fallen."

The Jewish World remarks that it was perhaps inevitable that the lost Ten Tribes of Israel should be sought in the Japanese, for the museums of Japan contain a number of engravings of old pictures, purporting to represent a landing of the Jews in the days of long ago. There is said to be a picture showing a procession in which soldiers and priests take part, the latter wearing hats of Biblical pattern, and in which the Holy Ark is easily to be discerned. There is also a drawing that depicts Solomon in the act of receiving gifts from the Queen of Sheba, as well as models of all, the founder of Japan's dynasty of 216 Emperors in 730 B.C.E., bore the same name, "Osea," as the last King of Israel (Hoshea), who was his contemporary.