

## Non-Communicating Attendance.

It seems to many of us that a great deal of unnecessary feeling has been exhibited in reference to this custom. Certainly non-communicating attendance was not the primitive practice, and it is forbidden by early canons. On the other hand, there seems no good reason why a person who had received at an earlier celebration should not be present at a later without receiving. The question has been raised as to the custom in the Eastern Church, and the following extract from a letter by a layman in the Church Times may interest our readers: "Mr. Ridsdale stated that 'the Eastern Church does most certainly countenance the attendance of her people without communicating,' and that many of us have been eye-witnesses of the custom. So far from the Eastern Church countenancing non-communicating attendance, it discourages it as much as possible. Leaving out great functions on State occasions, when the communicating of the congregation would be impossible, neither the Russian nor the Greek Church authorities willingly allow non-communicating attendance. Such an action in any individual is censured, unless the person thus laying himself open to remark can plead the having communicated within twenty-four hours, and, even then, the minor duties of partaking of the *pain benedictum*, at a table placed at the side of the nave, and of there depositing a money offering, are insisted on, in order that by these acts the non-communicating member may show that he is one with the rest of the congregation."

## Northern Exploration.

To some of us it seems a mere waste of human energy and of precious life to encourage those voyages towards the North Pole in which so many of our own people and of other nationalities have taken part. It may, however, be answered that the discouraging of such enterprises may prove a hindrance to scientific discoveries of importance. However this may be, the account of the voyages of Nansen, written by himself, proved of deep and wide interest, and his lectures no less so. This, however, is not to be the end of such enterprise. In the words of an English contemporary: "Dr. Nansen's record has not been allowed to remain long unbeaten. The success achieved by the Duke of the Abruzzi's expedition has carried our knowledge of the Arctic regions one step further towards the goal of all our explorers—the discovery of the North Pole. The Duke is to be congratulated on accomplishing the important feat of penetrating farther than the highest point reached by the famous Dr. Nansen. In time, the Pole itself will be reached, but there is no indication at present that it will be found to possess any features distinguishable from the other parts of the Arctic Circle. Successful as the expedition has been, the Duke and his companions have not escaped the privations of these severe regions. The Duke himself has suffered the loss of two fingers, and bravely shared the privations of his comrades. Scien-

tific results of great value are said to have been attained by the Duke, whose narrative will be awaited with great interest in the scientific world."

## The Labour Question.

There is no question likely to be more pressing than this for many a day. At this moment we are reading of serious strikes and of bloodshed ensuing, and of more strikes in prospect. The English contemporary remarks: "The Trades' Union Congress, which met at Huddersfield last week, passed much the same resolutions as have become familiar to us all. Old-age pensions, the housing of the poor, 'fair wages,' and so forth—these are all questions which we are—most of us—in hearty sympathy with, but how to remove the obstacles in the way of realizing these ideals, is the problem which wants solving. On the matter of the war and compulsory arbitration in industrial disputes, the Congress was divided in opinion, but the odd protest against the proposal to import Chinese labour into South Africa was carried by an overwhelming majority." To English writers this proposal seems more "odd" than it does to ourselves. We are not quite able to understand how the English allow the dregs of Continental towns to be shunted on their shores. We suppose there must be some good connected with it, or that some evil would result from a different method such as we cannot completely understand.

## Testimony from China.

It will be a very long time before we learn all the truth about China and the origin of the uprising there. But testimonies from eye-witnesses will always be of value; and by a comparison of those coming from different quarters, we shall by degrees gain a comprehensive view of the whole. In this connection the following narrative from a lady representative of the C.M.S., dated from Deng Doi, South China, may be interesting. She says: "The medical work is still carried on, and we are most grateful to the Medical Committee for the help they have given us. One especially interesting case was that of a doctor and fortune-teller. He could not cure himself, and, as he was too ill to go up Fuh-chow, it remained for me to do what I could for him. He had his fortune-telling idol chopped in half and his charms burned. Several times people came to have their fortunes told, but he said: 'Now I worship the true God and have nothing more to do with idols.' This was a great test, as he was at the time so badly off that he was pawning his goods. He moved to a distant village, but now, after nine months, he is still true, although he has had no one to help him, and no church nearer than nine miles. I believe his recovery and willingness to give up his idols was due to the earnest prayers of the missionary sisters who were staying with me at the time." With regard to deaths in China, the Church Times has the following: "So far as is known at present, it would seem that of British missionaries and their families,

the deaths of thirty-four persons have been absolutely proved, together with twenty-two Americans. Besides these, there are 170 of both nationalities missing in the provinces of Chili and Shan-si, while the numbers of French, Swedish, Danish, and other Christians cannot yet be discovered. In addition to these, the native Christians who have been massacred cannot possibly be numbered, but in all the thanksgivings which have been offered for the succour of the living, there must surely be found the note of rejoicing that so many have found life when they accepted the crown of a martyr."

## SOUTH AFRICA.

Nearly a year ago, some few persons—chiefly outside the British Empire—were asking: What will be the result of the war in South Africa? From most subjects of the Empire there came back the unhesitating, undoubting reply: There can be but one end. Great Britain cannot afford to fail. There could in fact be no other answer. What many people now find it difficult to understand is that the Boers should ever have expected to obtain any advantage by making war on Great Britain. There could be no doubt as to the end with any who knew the conditions. Great Britain had the power—a greater power than the Home Government realized when they began the conflict. She had not only the resources, in men and money, of England, Scotland, and Ireland; she had her great colonial Empire at her back, prompt to come to her aid, and able to send many more than were actually sent, as soon as the need might become apparent. One other element was overlooked by those hostile or indifferent to the Empire—the moral element. The war was undertaken as a duty. It was a sacrifice imposed upon the Empire by the requirements—the righteous demands—of our human nature. In this conviction our people never wavered. By this conviction they have been sustained, and in the same spirit they would have borne still greater sacrifices, had they been needed. And now the end is nearing. The war, we are told, is practically over. While we write there is a report of fighting, and probably it is almost the last in any regular kind of way. The work remaining to be done is rather police work than military work. Ex-President Kruger has fled over the border into Portuguese territory. Ex-President Steyn is being hunted by the Imperial troops. Before these lines are printed, he may be a captive in British hands, or a refugee in keeping with Kruger. The Ex-President of the Transvaal is not a heroic figure. Posing as a patriot, resolved to sacrifice all for the liberty of his people, etc., etc., ready to let the invaders walk over his body, but not to desert the sacred cause, he has fled ignominiously from pillar to post, and is now waiting for a convenient opportunity of escaping with his gold to the Netherlands, or some other haven of rest, where he may enjoy what he has not laboured for. It is of no use wasting sentiment over such a