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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Mrs. Harrington, daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Geddie, the Apostle of Anisimou died at Halifax, N.S., last week. Her mother is still living at Geelong, Australia.

The Australian Government has prohibited the importation of opium except for medicinal purposes. The action of the government involves the loss of about \$80,000 per year in duties.

No other country in the world has such great mineral wealth in so small an area as Great Britain. Coal is first, and the other important minerals are iron, tin, copper, lead, silver, zinc, iron pyrites and salt.

Rev. R. G. Fisher and his wife sailed from Halifax, N.S., on the 3rd of March for British Guiana, to take up the mission among the East Indians, rendered vacant by the lamented death of the late Rev. J. D. McKay.

Mr. John Burns has caused to be issued by the Local Government Board a return showing the extent of pauperism in England and Wales during the past half century. In 1849 the ratio per 1,000 was 68.7; in 1900 it was 25.0; last year it was 26.2. The total in 1849 was 1,088,659; last year it was 884,965. Of able-bodied paupers the ratio per 1,000 has fallen from 11.7 to 2.1.

The new London premises of the Bank of Montreal at 47 Threadneedle street form a substantial, handsome, four-storied building ornamented by granite columns. Two separate banks formerly occupied the site, but by the removal of the party wall dividing them these have now been thrown into one large banking chamber measuring 60 feet by 44 feet and 17 feet high.

The revival spirit should never be allowed to wane in the Christian church. After a series of special evangelistic efforts, there is always a tendency to relax interest, devotion, and zeal in the aggressive work of soul saving, whereas then is the time for a renewed baptism of the Holy Spirit, and a renewal of the covenant on the part of all true believers.

Dr. Torrey tells of an Englishman who made fabulous wealth out of the South African diamond mines, and yet was so far from being satisfied with the possession of money that he employed a man to dog his footsteps lest he should commit suicide, and one day, when the keeper was not watching, he did jump overboard from a steamer and was drowned. The selfish use of money never satisfies.

Eight Protestant societies are at work in the Kongo Valley, with 179 missionaries. They maintain forty main stations with 301 out stations, with a total church membership of 8,812, and 1,836 in classes being taught for church membership. There are 811 native teachers and evangelists, 7,130 Sabbath school scholars, and 13,880 day school pupils, and 5,810 are in young people's societies.

St. John's Church, St. John's, one of the Church of Scotland congregations which held back at the time of the union of the Presbyterian churches of Canada, has sought and been cordially given admission into the Presbyterian church of Canada. Some seven or eight churches in the county of Pictou held back at the time of the union, but have since, in all but one or two we believe, cast in their lot with the United Church.

"We sometimes wonder," writes Dr. Haddon, "at the superior sanctity of some men's lives, and yet the grand, simple secret of their sanctity is the fact that their lives are willed with the sense of God, and spent in conscious fellowship with Him. Into all the duties and difficulties and evils of life we may take with us the thoughts of God's nearness, and thus shall all life's relationships and interests and activities be thereby hallowed."

"With the Spirit, everything," says Dr. Cuyler, "without the Spirit, nothing." Dr. Jowett tells of an old pitman in Durham, who said of his vicar, "You have only to shake the man's hand to know that he is full of the Holy Spirit." Another, an agricultural laborer, said of one of his fellows, "I never see that man cross the common, sir, without feeling the better for it." It was not the man that made him feel better, but the Spirit who dwelt in the man."

Mr. John Willis Baer who was for many years the energetic travelling secretary of the Christian Endeavor organization, and for a short time fulfilled similar duties for the Home Mission of the American General Assembly, has accepted the presidency of the Occidental Presbyterian College at Los Angeles, South California. His travelling kept him from his family, and was telling on his health. He does not retire from the Home Mission work till after the General Assembly.

The Rev. Dr. Alexander McLaren, the distinguished Baptist divine, celebrated his eightieth birthday on Sunday, February 11th. A remarkable tribute to the great preacher's character and influence is given by the fact that the press of Great Britain, both secular and religious, almost without exception, made kindly references to him, and sympathetic and eulogistic references to his work and spirit. Dr. McLaren is still in vigorous health, and, although without a settled charge, does a great deal of work, both in the pulpit and on the platform, as well as of a literary kind.

Zion's Herald calls the attention of its readers to the fact that so much interest has centered of late in Russian political affairs that few have realized how significant a revolution is in progress in Russian religious circles. In respect to the change that is taking place in the Russian church of immense import to the people at large, that paper says: "The greatest step in this direction was made by the edict of Easter Sunday, granting increased religious toleration. A clearly marked movement for reform has set in among the priests of the Orthodox church itself—a movement which may well be termed a return to the simplicity of the Gospel. The recognized head of this spiritualizing movement is a priest by the name of Petrov, whose articles are read to-day by hundreds of thousands of persons in Russia, and whose one object is to leaven all living elements of the Russian priesthood with the yeast of the Gospel. A large number of priests are recognizing more and more the duty of free speech in the service of God, and are refusing to read sermons set for them by the ecclesiastical authorities. Petitions are being circulated for the abrogation of the queer street costume of the priests, the long hair, the interdiction of a second marriage, and other antiquated customs. With the constant decrease in the prestige of the royal family, the influence of a mediæval church, whose supreme goal is the deification of the Czar and the strengthening of autocracy, must, it is becoming evident, gradually decline."

Doctors in Lower Austria are complaining that they only receive twopence a vaccination, while veterinary surgeons are paid sixpence each for inoculating swine.

It is a good thing to abstain from evil; it is better to learn to do well. To remove a noxious weed is a blessing; to put in its place a bright flower is adding a perpetual delight.

Voltaire is reported as having said in a fit of sullenness, "I despair of destroying Christianity in any country as long as millions of human beings meet on Sunday to worship God." Voltaire was right. Christian men and women everywhere should rally to the defence of the Christian Sabbath against the secularizing tendencies of the age.

Owing to the prevalence of pneumonia and the great mortality which attends its ravages during the winter and spring, several boards of health in northern New Jersey have been taking measures to protect the citizens of their towns from the disease. The health board of Washington, N. J., has published a remedy which is said to be of advantage in the treatment of pneumonia, and other health boards are looking into the matter with a view to having the same thing published for the good of the general public. This is the publication as it has appeared in the papers of Washington: "Take six to ten onions, according to size, and chop fine, put in a large spider over a hot fire, then add the same quantity of rye meal and vinegar enough to form a thick paste. In the meantime stir it thoroughly, letting it simmer five or ten minutes. Then put in a cotton bag large enough to cover the lungs and apply to chest as hot as patient can bear. In about ten minutes apply another, and thus continue reheating the poultices, and in a few hours the patient will be out of danger. This simple remedy has never failed to cure this too often fatal malady. Usually three or four applications will be sufficient, but continue always until the perspiration starts freely from the chest. This remedy was formulated many years ago by one of the best physicians New England has ever known, who never lost a patient by the disease, and won his renown by simple remedies."

A recent number of The British Weekly contains a very interesting account given by the Rev. R. E. Welsh, M.A., who came out from England last summer to accept the secretaryship of the Canadian Bible Society, of his first trip across the Dominion in the interests of the great organization he represents. He has many good words to say for Canada, but he noted an evil which might almost be called "Canada's shame." Wherever he went he says he was shocked with the almost all-prevailing habit of profanity. Even in Pullman cars and among the people of the better class it was quite the usual thing, he said, to hear ordinary conversation punctuated with oaths and imprecations. Commenting on Mr. Welsh's remarks, the Christian Guardian says: "And it would almost seem as if this pernicious and vile habit were on the increase among us. In the name of all that is decent, as well as in the interest of all that is high and holy, an earnest effort should be made to educate public sentiment against this evil, and to inaugurate, through the church, the Sunday school, and especially through the public school, an active and effective propaganda against it. The prevalence of the habit indicates a deplorable lack of reverence and a tendency to moral obliquity that should make us blush for the present and tremble for the future." An anti-profanity campaign would seem to be very much in order.