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Note and Comment.

"If there, why not here?" queries the Christian Guardian in an editorial heading over an article on the great revival in Denver, Colorado.

He who indulges in liquor to sharpen his wits is feigning the devil to hasten his death. For every dram that men drink, Satan draws a new arrow from his quiver, lays it to his bow-string and lodges it in the heart of his victim.

The last annual report of the Moody Bible Institute shows that the student roll was never larger or the spiritual tide higher. Arrangements have been made whereby Dr. James M. Gray, known as a great Bible teacher, will become a member of the board of trustees and assume an active part in the direction of affairs.

English agriculture is yearly becoming less profitable. In 1872 the gross farm revenue was \$1,275,000,000. In 1892 it had dropped to \$875,000,000 and in 1903 to \$6,000,000 less. The value of agriculture has dropped in twenty-six years about \$3,237,500,000, the figures composing the diminution in owners and farmers capital and and loss in profit.

The Methodists of England are not the only body making extensive use of the lay preacher. The Congregationalists have over five thousand lay preachers, or one to every eighty-six of the membership of the church. English Baptists have one lay preacher to every seventy-three of membership, while the Methodists have one to twenty. Canadian Methodism has one local preacher to about one hundred and thirty-five members.

A short time ago—says the Presbyterian Standard—a wealthy man, who had been a consistent Protestant all his life, and an ardent Mason, but who had married a Catholic wife, was received into the Catholic church in his last moments, in an alleged interval of consciousness, though he had been unconscious for many hours. How can Catholicism expect to keep the respect of people with the ordinary instincts of propriety?

Here is what the South-Western Presbyterian calls a "good quotation." It is from that ancient but not antiquated document, forever new because it states God's eternal truth, the Shorter Catechism: "The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy."

It is a pleasant thing to note that, coincident with the prosperity of the country, Presbyterians are mindful of the missionary and benevolent schemes of their church. During the past year they have contributed to home and foreign missions some \$400,000. The contributions to the schemes of the church bring this total up half a million dollars. This is a distinct advance over previous years, and it is an advance that must be kept up, for the work in all our mission fields is rapidly growing and the church cannot take any backward step. The wide world is open to the "Heralds of the Cross;" from all heathen and semi-civilized lands sounds the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us," and if the Gospel is to be sent to those who have it not, both men and money must be forthcoming. Out of their abundance the Christian men and women of the Presbyterian church must respond to the demands of the situation.

On a brass plate around the rim of the wheel on all the vessels of the Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen is the motto: "Jesus saith, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

The movement among the four Methodist bodies in England for union is naturally watched with a good deal of sympathetic interest by the Churches in countries such as Canada, and Australia, where union has already been consummated.

The proprietors of the Munro Wire Works, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, are building a branch factory at Winnipeg. Another Nova Scotia firm, the Robb Engineering Co., of Amherst, are to furnish the steam plant. There is a good deal of go-ahead-activeness in these young Bluesones.

During the past year over forty men have been doing mission work in New Ontario and the Canadian North-West under the Student Missionary Society of Knox College, Toronto. This is the largest student missionary society in America. The annual contribution this year is about \$10,000.

The Bishop of Norwich, speaking last week at a meeting on behalf of the Norwich Church Extension Fund, said he would not consecrate a new church in which the sittings were not all free. The people ought also to be cordially welcomed. He once refused a Crown living, which would have made him a much richer man than he was at present, because a difficulty arose about free sittings. It was to be regretted that bishops' salaries were so large while the clergy were so poor; but then bishops had to meet heavy charges.

On the 12th of February last the French speaking people of McDonald, Pa., dedicated a new church. This mission, the United Presbyterian says, is the first congregation in the United Presbyterian Church speaking a foreign language.

Dr. Watson of the United Presbyterian Board of Foreign Mission (U. S.) believes that they are facing a crisis in their mission work. "One of our Indian missionaries told me when I was with him a few months ago that he could without difficulty add 3,000 more to the 2,000 baptized members already received if he were able to receive them and care for their spiritual needs. This opportunity cannot last forever. If it is not improved it will pass." A similar situation exists in the Sudan today.

"Hark the voice of Jesus crying,
"Who will go and work today."

The Belfast Witness publishes the following illustration of justice in Ireland:—"This attempt to turn the National schools into Nationalist schools would produce effects of which we see sample in Westport. The Rev. Michael MacDonald, Roman Catholic priest in that town, kicked a Protestant colporteur for the offence of selling good books (the Douay Bible among them.) The Bench of magistrates before whom the case was brought, decided by a majority that the priest was justified in that barbarous assault. The Resident Magistrate praised Westport for its tolerant spirit. The priest, being liberated, was escorted in triumph to his house, to the music of a local Nationalist band. Are such men fit to be magistrates? No, no more than MacDonald is fit to be a clergyman of any church."

It is many a year since an escapade of that kind occurred in any part of Canada, though we remember that the late Father Chiniquy was assaulted by Roman Catholics in Antigonish, N.S., in 1873, when going from a pulpit meeting in the Presbyterian Church. Such a thing could not occur there now.

An Ormskirk brewer has been writing to Dr. Chavasse, Bishop of Liverpool, because at the recent Church Congress one of the speakers urged that they should do without brewers' money. In reply Dr. Chavasse declares that he "could not accept a farthing from a man whose fortune was made out of the misery and degradation of our great slum parishes."

Ballington Booth reports: "Over 14,000 prisoners, living reformed lives, have been enrolled in the Volunteer Prison League during six years. The volunteers are in touch by correspondence and meetings with 29,000 men within the walls. Tens of thousands of poor people and children were given an outing into the fresh air during the year through the organization."

The French Minister of Public Works has taken up the question of sanitation in railway carriages. Circulars have been sent to the various railway companies ordering the immediate removal from railway carriages and stations of all non-washable carpets, and the cessation of the system of dry sweeping and cleaning. Even carriage seatings are to be in washable materials.

The Inverness Presbytery met, specially last week in connection with a petition from the High Church for the appointment of a colleague and a successor to Dr. Black, who, as already stated, is in indifferent health, and wishes to retire on attaining his ministerial jubilee in 1907. Before going to Inverness Dr. Black was settled in Dublin. In 1880 he visited Canada and preached to a large congregation in Cook's Church, Toronto.

The following trenchant deliverance is from the United Presbyterian: "An open Sabbath means a demoralized nation. It means a debauched citizenship. It means that religion must go down before the mailed hand of greed. Destroy the religious conviction of any people, or that upon which conviction rests or by which it is promoted, and you undermine the foundations of civil liberty. The blessings of the highest civilization cannot be maintained without the Sabbath. It is better that the law be made stronger than to weaken it by legislation."

The venerable Principal Rainy, of New College, Edinburgh, who has been nominated as Moderator of the next United Free Church General Assembly, entered upon his eightieth year on January 1 last. It is a wonderful tribute to a man who has so long passed the "dead line" that he should be chosen to this responsible position, specially in view of the difficulties which now confront the church, following the House of Lords' decision. Principal Rainy was the first post-disruption minister to be elected Moderator of the Free Church, and the first moderator of the United Free and U. P. bodies in 1900. He has been principal of the New College since 1873, and teaching in it since 1864.

The sixth and concluding lecture of the present series of Chalmers lectures was delivered by Dr. M'Crrie, of Ayr, recently in the High Church, Edinburgh. The lecturer took for his subject, "Reconstruction of the Confessional Theology of Scotland subsequent to 1647." In concluding, Dr. M'Crrie gave it to be understood that he favoured the idea of a reconstructed Church of Scotland on the basis of a reconstructed creed, and that in his judgment there is a clear call for the construction of a new, briefer, and simpler Confession to be declared by some future Assembly of the National United Church of Scotland, "most agreeable to the Word of God, and in nothing contrary to the received doctrine, worship, discipline and government of this Kirk."