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NOTE AND COMMENT

A certain clergyman is reported as saying that the time has come for the Church and the saloon to get together. In some cases we would not be surprised, pertinently says the Philadelphia Westminster, if the union had taken place already.

Dr. Campbell Morgan, in a recent address, said he did not want to be called a Dissenter or a Nonconformist. He did not want to be called by any negative name. "I belong," he said, "to the Catholic Church of Jesus Christ, and I don't like any of these phrases that try to cut me out or limit me."

Atheism and anarchy go together. Remove the Almighty from the universe and law ceases to exist. But atheism is only the climax of much else. The scientist who knows nothing but force to that extent offers his contribution. He may be personally law-abiding and respectable, but his teachings lead to the abyss.

The 300th anniversary of the foundation of Quebec by Champlain occurs next year. Toward a project for turning the Plains of Abraham, where Wolfe defeated Montcalm, into a national park, the King has given one hundred guineas; and his representative, Earl Grey, is taking a very active interest in the movement.

The most conspicuous picture in the eighty-second exhibition of the Royal Scottish Academy is Sir James Guthrie's full-length portrait of the Prime Minister, remarks the British Weekly, a presentation to their honoured chief from 10,000 Scottish Liberals. "C.B." stands against a pillar in the Court dress of his office—white breeches and stockings, gold-embroidered jacket, ample black cloak thrown back, his plumed hat in his right hand.

Anything more ludicrous than the precautions in connection with the recent removal of Mrs. Eddy to Brookline, Mass., says the United Presbyterian, has not recently appeared in the public press. Great care to prevent the supposed removal becoming public before it occurred, special force of policemen guarding the old home and the new, special train, with special engine running ahead of it and behind it, closed carriages, and so forth and so on, to the length of fully two columns of the size of this. There are intimations that the secrecy was due to the fear of interference of one faction of devotees with the plans of another.

The General Assembly of the South African Church has adopted a memorial minute concerning the late Rev. Dr. John Watson ("Tan Maclaren"), and has sent a copy of it to the General Secretary of the English Church. The minute, after expressing its deep sense of the loss which Christendom has sustained through the death of Dr. Watson, refers to his writings in these words:—"In exalting the purity and tenderness of domestic life, in widening the world's conceptions of theology and religion, in deepening and enriching the feelings of Christian faith and love, and in intensifying the hold of our generation upon eternal truths, Dr. Watson rendered to all Churches and creeds a service of unspeakable value and far-reaching results."

The Congregationalists of the world, according to figures presented in the English "Congregational Year Book," number 1,333,831. There are 12,582 churches and 1,602,686 children in the Sunday schools. Of the total number of members, 501,692 are found in Great Britain, 9,832 in Canada, and New foundland, 19,019 in Australasia, 18,521 in South Africa, 8,641 in British Guiana and Jamaica, 12,684 in China, India and Japan, 696,442 in the United States and 68,724 in various missionary countries.

Horse owners, says the Scientific American, are often compelled to tie their horses rather close in the stall, for fear of accident resulting by the animal's becoming entangled in a halter strap which is too long. A weighted hitching strap is now to be h.d., with which the animal may have a good deal of liberty without any danger of this trouble. It consists of a piece of pipe with means of securing it to the woodwork of the stall, and a roller at the top over which the strap passes. A long weight slides up and down inside the pipe, and the end of the hitching strap is secured to it. The weight takes up all slack, and the length of rope which it takes care of is sufficient to allow the animal considerably more freedom than if tied in the ordinary manner.

A movement has been started in Ireland which has for its motto, "Secular control of secular education." A writer in the London Christian World says "the real Irish question" is not one of land reform or national parliament, but education of the people. The education of the Irish people in portions of the country is almost wholly controlled by Roman Catholic priests. The priest appoints the teachers in his parish and dismisses them. In some of the country districts 70 per cent. of the people are illiterates. The government inspector reports that in two of the largest schools he found classes of boys, from 30 to 40 in each, knitting stockings in the care of a motherly old woman as their teacher. One boy had been six years studying this occupation!

A notable conference in the interest of Sabbath observance was held recently in the Jerusalem Chamber of Westminster Abbey. The Archbishop of Canterbury presided. There were present representatives of forty different Sabbath observance societies, many connected with other than state church, from all parts of the kingdom. This meeting was the outcome of "A Message to the Nation," distributed throughout Great Britain, in which was set forth the absolute necessity for one day's rest in seven for the physical and mental efficiency of men, women, and children, to make home life more truly what English home life ought to be; and to give all an opportunity in the worship of Almighty God, to escape from the grip of ordinary cares and occupations into regions of higher thought and nobler aspirations.

In the side of an old well where it had lain undisturbed for 2200 years, an earthenware jar containing five hundred pieces of the time of Alexander the Great has been found. One hundred of these were specimens of the silver tetradrachm of Alexander the Great, a coin corresponding in weight to our half dollar. The pieces are very thick and are made of silver of great purity. The obverse bears the head of Hercules in a lion's skin; the reverse shows Zeus

seated in a chair. All bear the name of Alexander in Greek. Monograms and mint marks of great interest were found on many pieces of this lot, and some of the pieces bore the Greek word for the mint marks, designating the towns or cities where they were struck. The coins are all in very high relief, so that only two or three could be stacked together without their tumbling over. The find was made at Luxor.

Egypt has just seen the completion of a new bridge, connecting Cairo with the Island of Rodah in the Nile. The bridge has taken three years to construct, and is 1,740 feet long by 65 feet in breadth. There are fourteen spans, in addition to one turning span of 209 feet, which is swung by electricity, and, which, when open, gives a clear channel of 70 feet on each side for the passage of vessels. In testing the bridge prior to public use, every square yard was subjected to a pressure of four hundred pounds. In this test the footpaths were piled with sand, and twenty trams, loaded with cement, twenty-four water-carts, twenty dust-carts, loaded with sand, and eight traction engines, were allowed to remain on the bridge for a whole day. Afterwards the great structure was opened for public traffic. Another illustration of what British rule means for Egypt! How long would it have been before the Khedive would have erected such a bridge?

The Interior has been carefully looking into the assertions which have been published likely, whether so intended or not, to discredit the remarkable revival which took place in Wales. The Interior finds, from examination of the official statistics, that during the year 1907 there was a decrease in the unit membership of the four principal denominations of 10,976, but there was in 1906, as a direct result of the revival, an increase of 87,792. There remains, therefore, at the close of the second year a net increase of 76,816 over and above the annual loss by death. These figures include the Baptists, Congregationalists, Wesleyans and Calvinistic Methodists. "If to these were added the enrollment of the Anglican Church in Wales, whose rectors in various places were active in the revival work and shared its fruits, we should doubtless find the net increase considerably larger." This is reassuring after the pessimistic reports recently appearing in the press.

The California Christian Advocate has been getting into trouble with its Roman Catholic friends, simply because it asked what seems to be a very pertinent question, viz., Can a Roman Catholic judge validate a marriage which the Pope has said is not a marriage? After Easter, the marriage between a Roman Catholic and a Protestant, in fact, all marriages not solemnized by the Roman Catholic priesthood, will be held by the Romish Church to be null and void. Suppose a Roman Catholic judge is called to deal with such a marriage, what will he do? The law of the land declares the marriage to be valid; the law of the church declares it to be null and void; under such circumstances, what will be the plain duty of a conscientious Roman Catholic judge? We rather think he will give a decision based upon the law of the land, but if he does, what becomes of his church's affiliations? The application of the Papal encyclical to this continent evidently means trouble for some one.