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*The heights by great men reached and kept
Were not attained by sudden flight,
But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night.*

OVER LAND AND SEA.

"In an exchange," says the Central Presbyterian, "we note the protest of a good woman against electing two men as elders on the ground that they do not take any church paper, and are too ignorant of their church work to hold office." The best type of Christian elder will be found to be a regular reader of a good religious newspaper. The same is true of the best type of Christian layman.

The well-known Scotch evangelist, Mr McNeil, who has visited several countries, including Australia and South Africa, is now in New York. He has addressed large audiences in Carnegie Music Hall.

The fiftieth anniversary of the death of Chalmers falls on the 30th of May, which chances to be a Sunday. The spirited proprietors of the *People's Journal* are offering prizes for the best essays on the life and character of Dr. Chalmers and the Free Church in 1847 and 1897. Two money prizes are offered, and a number of copies of Professor Blaikie's new life of Chalmers.

The death of Dr. Joseph Brown, of Glasgow, recalls the fact that the father of this good minister of Jesus Christ once took out a license to sell strong drink. But he withdrew it in a few days. When asked the reason, he said he would not undergo a repetition of his first Saturday night's experiences of a licensed public-house for any money. The Excise people admiring and wondering greatly at the goodness of the honest Christian man, promptly gave him back the money he paid for his first and last license.

The sacred isle of Iona has been connected with the mainland by telegraph. The first message was sent to the Queen in the name of the islanders congratulating her on her record reign. The second was to the Duke of Argyll and the Marquis of Lorne. The Free Church minister next sent a message to the Bishop of Argyll, and one in Gaelic to a gentleman in Oban, both of whom are guarantors, while the Established Church minister sent one to Mr. Nicol, M. P. All this looks well for the approaching celebration in June of the 1,300th anniversary of the death of St. Columba.

In 1876 the United Presbyterian Church gave up 98 congregations in England, but in 1895 there were 577 congregations in Scotland, and 191,881 members. The year 1896 shows an increase of finances in all departments. One marked feature of the United Presbyterian Church has been a constant stream of congregational liberality and a succession of admirable treasurers who have been adepts at tabulating and handling the finance of the church.

Dr. S. Thornton, the Bishop of Ballarat, has submitted a paper to the Victoria Institute, which revives the question of the origin of the Australian aborigines. We live in a time when the links which connect far scattered branches of the human family are being laid bare with startling suddenness and completeness. It was already known that the Australian was related to the Dravidian populations in India; but what shall we say to a connection between ancient Australia and ancient Ireland?

The established Church of Scotland may well look forward with satisfaction to the approaching General Assembly, as her funds for 1896 show an increase of £18,400 over those for 1895. On Foreign Missions there is an increase of about £6,000; on Home Missions of about £1,400; while the largest increase of all, some £9,000, is on her Endowment Scheme, of which this is the Jubilee year. Even the Jews, by virtue of a legacy, and notwithstanding Mr. Menzies of Fordoun, have received an extra £2,000.

The American Baptist Publication Society does not seem to have felt the hard times that have so seriously affected other organizations. Its sale of books and periodicals last year exceeded those of the previous year by about \$45,000. It has published 122 new books, pamphlets and tracts, with an issue of 2,769,028 copies, which with its periodicals makes a total of over 41,000,000 copies. The missionary work has been enlarged and its expenses increased, but its deficiency lessened by \$3,000.

Some interesting statements regarding the increase of drunkenness among women have been made by the physician of the Laennec Hospital in France. These results are worth considering here, for we are far from boasting immunity in this matter. Dr. Grandmaison says that, out of the first five hundred of the out-door patients who sought his aid, thirty one per cent of the women and seventy per cent of the men showed signs of chronic alcoholism. A few of these cases were girls under twenty, but fifty one per cent of the women drunkards were between the ages of twenty and forty—that is, the most active working period of life. Of 118 women, cooks sixty, one-third of the twenty seven laundresses, and thirty four out of seventy char-women were inebriates. The smallest proportion was amongst the seventy two needlewomen, of whom eight per cent were drunkards.

The severest indictment of the Greek soldier is that he is not amenable to discipline. It is "no uncommon thing," says a correspondent, "to hear the word of command disputed or discussed on the parade ground or on the march." Discussion never makes a soldier. Forensic disputes are out of place in a camp. The first step toward military success is to obey orders. And the *Christian foeman* might profitably give attendance to the same rule in his spiritual warfare.