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NOTE AND COMMENT

Our readers who were former residents of Buffalo, N.Y., are requested to send their addresses to the Old-Home Week Committee in order to receive souvenir invitations to Old-Home Week in Buffalo, which will be from September 1 to 7, inclusive.

The suit of the "next friends" against Mrs. Eddy's entourage is making devious progress. The latest development is the appointment of two physicians to act with Judge Edgar Aldrich, of Littleton, New Hampshire, to determine as to her mental competency.

The minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States came from the press promptly on June 28th, two days less than one month from the adjournment of the Assembly. This is well done; and is considerably ahead of the publication of our own minutes, which usually appear a couple of months, or more, after adjournment.

More money, according to Russian authority, is stolen by officials of the Russian Government from its treasury every year than would be sufficient to feed its starving millions for whom aid is asked from benevolent people in this country. Yet the sufferers would not be relieved without this charity, and it requires great care to get it to them past the clutching hands of Russian grafters.

To show their displeasure with the Liberal party, the Irish Nationalists announce that they will no longer vote for Liberal candidates at bye-elections, but will nominate their own men. The result at Jarrow, the first place where a parliamentary election has taken place since the split, was the defeat of the Liberal candidate and the election, not of a Unionist, but of a Laborite.

The Socialists spread their propaganda in season and out of season. In London they had hired four schools for Sunday afternoons, in which they held Socialist Sunday schools. The London County Council has terminated their tenancies because they taught political doctrines, although some of the members of the Council remarked that they had heard political sermons in cathedrals and in chapels.

By consent of other American denominations, the United Presbyterian Church is allowed to occupy Egypt alone as a mission field, it having first taken possession of the ground. They were greatly blessed last year, having received 951 into their churches. The native members gave \$7,636 more than in any previous year. There was especial rejoicing that twelve of the number received during the year were Mohammedans.

The Chinese have a saying, "If you have two loaves of bread sell one and buy a lily." It is not the body alone that needs to be fed. Mind, heart, and soul grow hungry, and many a time they are famishing when the larder is full. There are homes where the lilies are entirely crowded out by the loaves; where there is no room for beauty or enjoyment, or even for love, to grow, because of the mad scramble after wealth. Fewer loaves and more lilies—less of the rush after material good, and more time for the gracious and beautiful things God has placed within reach of us all—would make happier and nobler lives.

At their recent conference at Leicester, England, the Primitive Methodists, who are celebrating their centenary, proposed to inaugurate a thanksgiving fund, and after a solemn dedicatory service, W. P. Hartley, a prominent Methodist, arose and offered \$45,000. This was received with enthusiastic acclamations, after which delegate after delegate arose and promised a generous contribution. At the close of the meeting it was announced that these offerings, with the pledges already made on behalf of the churches, reached a total of \$1,350,000.

In Africa the gramophone is a handy aid to diplomacy. The Governor of the East African Protectorate, while on a recent visit to the little known Trans-Tana districts, gave a gramophone concert to the natives, and found that it had a great effect in promoting good understanding with the wild people. While he was in the Kenia forest it was only by means of the gramophone that the savages were induced to leave their retreat. On the first occasion when they did so the sound of a bugle call so frightened them that they bolted like rabbits.

The Belfast Witness says that, although Bishop Moule's statement that John Stuart Mill died a Christian believer has been called in question, there is no doubt whatever of the interesting fact. Caroline Fox bears witness that so early as 1840, when the philosopher was thirty-four, he was detached from the Atonisticism, in which he had been brought up by his father. He greatly enjoyed John Woolman, the Christian mystic, and pronounced spiritual religion to be to him the deepest and truest.

On July 4, a petition signed by over two million persons was presented to Pres. Nelidoff of The Hague Conference, calling for a general arbitration treaty. Pres. Nelidoff expressed satisfaction over the large number of signatures to the petition. He said it was in the right direction declaring that if any general limitation of armament becomes possible it will be through arbitration. He said that a better understanding between the different people was also a vital necessity in the movement looking toward the development of international law and international courts.

In the organization of the New Methodist Church of Japan, the three denominations united therein had to agree on some form of government. The most perplexing matter to be adjusted was the superintendency. The Northern and Southern churches in the United States elect numerous bishops for life, but the church in Canada elects only one supervising executive, calling him general superintendent, and commissioning him for a term of eight years. In Japan it was finally agreed that the General Conference should have power to choose one bishop for eight years, who should be eligible to indefinite reelection. To the office thus created Rev. Yoitsu Honda, the president of the Anglo-Japanese College at Tokyo, has been elected. Mr. Honda was born in 1848 of a Sumurai family. He was converted in 1872, and six years afterward he received preliminary ordination to the Methodist ministry. He has achieved great influence in the work of Christian education, and is recognized by all churches as a personality of great weight and steadiness.

There is a Scotch Presbyterian church in Buenos Ayres, Argentine, in which Presbyterians from any part of the world receive a hearty welcome. The Minister is Rev. J. W. Fleming, D. D., and his address is 352 Calle Peru, Buenos Ayres, Argentine. In the little magazine published by the church it is stated that "for the last quarter of a century no instance has occurred where any member of a Presbyterian church in North America has presented a certificate of membership, or letter of commendation from his or her pastor to the Presbyterian church in this city."

We noted a few weeks ago the number of Presbyterians who are Lieut. Governors in Canada. Our excellent contemporary, The Herald and Presbytery, says: "When one learns that the Governor of North Carolina, as well as the Governor of South Carolina, is a Presbyterian elder, he does not wonder that when they meet they greet one another as temperance men and Christian gentlemen should. The old remarks, reported in legend as passing between these two officials, have no place in the hearts or on the tongues of the real men as they exist to-day."

The Anti-English agitators of India are taking a three months' vacation at the suggestion of Mr. Benin Chandra Pal. But during the lull, he urges the Hindus to carry on a campaign of religious rites. With drums, torches, music and fireworks, he bids them to assemble in vast concentrations and sacrifice one hundred and one white living goats. Mr. Benin Chandra Pal looks for great results from the one hundred and one goats. "The holding of such midnight ceremonials at regular intervals will have a grand meaning, and will do wonders," says he. After all, he knows India better than Europeans do. In the period before the Mutiny, sheep, a kind of cake, were mysteriously circulated from village to village. The Hindus wags are not our wags. The sacrificial goats may be effective.

The Advance published in Chicago supplies an interesting summary of the Sabbath laws and practices of European countries at the present time. It says: Sixteen years ago Switzerland gave all railway employes fifty-two weekly rest days, seventeen on Sunday, and has gradually extended this privilege to nearly all employes, and so stopped all Sunday freight and excursion trains. Eight years ago, Belgium stopped nine-tenths of its Sunday freight trains. Recently Holland stopped ninety-nine per cent., and gave most employes one or two free Sundays a month. Germany has made great progress, in recent years, in giving employes Sunday rest, especially in stores and factories. Recently, 1,600 commercial houses in Frankfort demanded stricted Sunday closing. Many Sunday freights have been stopped, and nearly all in Alsace and Bavaria. The minister of public works in Prussia guarantees railway employes two days rest a month, generally on Sunday. In Austria, no dispatch or delivery freight is allowed on Sunday. In Hungary all factories have Sunday free, if practicable, but must have one whole or two half Sundays free each month. In Norway, saloons are closed more tightly Sunday than anywhere else. There and in Sweden employes have one free Sunday in three and factories are closed entirely. In Sweden, no Sunday theatres or dancing are allowed, and no Monday lessons are given for Sunday study. France's Sunday law gives nearly all employes a weekly rest day, part or all on Sunday."