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Note and Comment.

The Congo is one of the widest waterways in the globe, if not the finest. In some parts it is so wide that vessels may pass one another and yet be out of sight.

The British War Office has increased the rates of pensions and allowances to the widows and orphans of soldiers killed in action or dying of wounds in South Africa.

The trustees of Princeton University have conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity upon the Rev. Charles A. Salmond, M. A., of South Morningside United Free Church, Edinburgh, formerly of Free St. Matthew's, Glasgow.

Principal Fairbairn, at the annual meeting of the Yorkshire United Independent College, spoke earnestly of the importance of teaching theology in all the great schools of learning. He held that it was impossible to exclude it permanently.

The Salvation Army has obtained a grant of 20,000 acres of land in Australia as a settlement for Colonials. The area is situated 100 miles from Perth, and a great clearance of timber must be effected before it can be used for agriculture.

By comparing the statistics of English and Scotch Universities in a given year, it was found that Scotland, with a population of 3,725,000, had 6500 university students, while England had only 6000 students of a population about six times as great.

A drapery store in a Connecticut town is said to be run by three men named England, Ireland and Scotland. They met for the first time in America. Scotland married England's sister, and Ireland is engaged to another sister. The son of the first union is called Ireland England Scotland.

Following in the steps of other illustrious British women, Isabella Bird Bishop has offered herself as honorary missionary to India, under the Bishop of Calcutta. Her father was an English clergyman, but during the years she has lived in Edinburgh Mrs. Bishop was much associated with the Free Church.

A despatch to the London Globe from Shanghai, dated July 17, says the Russians, through the Belgians, are endeavoring to buy the Kai Ping collieries in Northern China, the strategic value of which is incalculable. The Kai Ping collieries are now largely supplying the navies of the powers in the far east with coal.

Many of Dr. Barnardo's boys have turned out remarkably well, but one of the most conspicuous examples of success won by merit is notified from Australia. The hero of the story is a gentleman who has just been figuring in the reception of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall—namely Mr. J. Page, one of Queensland's representatives in the new Federal Parliament of the Australian Commonwealth.

Principal Rainy is devoting himself actively to literary work. He has nearly finished a volume of Church history from A. D. 98-430, and in addition he contemplates a volume of sermons. The sermon volume will be very appropriate in connection with the completion of his jubilee. The Principal and Mrs. Rainy are starting for a short holiday in Norway.

Disorder and lawlessness have greatly increased in Pekin since the policing of the city was restored to the Chinese authorities. There are nightly burglaries by the large bands of depredators, while men in the employ of Europeans are frequently stopped and robbed. German military authorities have arranged for the withdrawal of all German troops except the permanent establishment early in August.

At a recent meeting of the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the following resolution was passed with reference to the circulation by the society of the Revised Version of the English Bible—"This committee thinks it desirable to issue the Revised Versions of 1881 and 1885 either by themselves, or as alternate readings to the Authorised Version, or in both forms, and suggests that steps should be taken to revise the laws of the Society to attain this object."

A vast trust for the exploitation of China is to be in process of formation. The King of Belgium is understood to be the promoter of the enterprise, which will be called the International Company of the far East. The construction and acquisition of railroads in China, as well as the control of lines of steamers, form a part of the company's program. The advocates of this great monopoly consider that the fact of the financiers of all countries being interested will form a valuable guarantee of peace in China.

The Religious Intelligencer says: A teacher in the Collegiate Institute at Woodstock, Ont., has been dismissed because of his pro Boer sympathies and conduct. From the beginning of the South African war he has expressed to his class, sentiments in favour of the Boers. He even went so far as to post clippings on the school bulletin board derogatory to the British, and if the British had a reverse or the Boers a success, a clipping with the vital points underscored was always posted up. He ought to have been turned out at the very first.

The Mayor of Toronto and the members of the Board of Control, have been "authorized" in conjunction with the Premier and members of the Ontario Government, or separately, to extend a most cordial invitation to their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York and suite to visit the city during their tour through the Dominion of Canada this year. It is recalled by the Toronto press that when King Edward was in Toronto in 1860 the city spent \$12,000 on his reception. The committee this year will ask for an interim appropriation of \$10,000.

A visitor returned from Brazil says that the whole country is perpetually intoxicated by coffee. It is brought to the bedside the moment of awakening and just before dropping asleep, at meals and between meals, on going out and coming in. Men, women and children drink it with the same liberality, and it is given to babies in arms. The effect is apparent in trembling hands, twitching eyelids, yellow, dry skins, and excitability worse than that produced by spirit drinking.

The late Dr. Maltbie D. Babcock, writing of the Christian Endeavour Society, said its supreme value is "its creation inside the church of a normal department, a training school. The public worship of the church, the Sunday School, the old fashioned prayer meeting, were all to teach and not to train. All the average young Christian could do was to listen, to think, to receive. This new movement trained the mind to think for others; the lips to speak, to pray; the feet to go on God's errands; the hands to work in Christian ministries. The form of organization, the wording of the pledge, the conventional committee, may be changed; but the idea that the church should have a department for training of the young Christian to do something more than worship, to witness, and to work for God, has come please God, to stay."

"The Church Review" loves above all things to lecture the Archbishops and Bishops, but occasionally it bestows "godly admonitions," also upon curates. Here are some excellent words on the subject of preaching—"Few who are compelled to listen to many of our younger clergy when they preach can fail to recognize how urgent is the necessity of their reading more and preaching less. It is scarcely too much to say that the miserable preaching on the part of very many of the younger clergy of the day would not be tolerated for long in any other communion than our own. . . . To enter the pulpit and fill up fifteen or twenty minutes by repeating in slightly varied form a number of more or less involved sentences may or may not be satisfactory to the preacher; but we know the feelings of the unhappy congregation who are compelled to listen to such a 'sermon.'"

Certain of our contemporaries, says the Scottish American Journal, are viewing with much concern and no little alarm the efforts now being made towards a federation of the whole parts of the vast British Empire. They perceive that if such a federation take place Free Trade between Britain and her Colonies will follow, and that will prove a great loss to this and other foreign countries. One contemporary says:—"In the Colonies of Canada, Austria, New Zealand, and—when peace has been secured—South Africa the British possess areas which under proper encouragement can be made to produce many of the agricultural commodities that they now buy of us. Those who are promoting the British imperial federation plan look to see the time, and that at no distant day, when there will be Free Trade between Britain and her colonies, with an imperial tariff resting upon the products of all other countries."