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OVER LAND AND SEA.

The average gain in church membership in the Presbyterian Church North last year was 7 per cent. In New Jersey it was 5 per cent.; in New York 6, in California 8, in Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oregon, and South Dakota, 10 per cent.

That the Protestants of Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia should be refused liberty of conscience, which includes freedom of worship, is in perfect harmony with good, sound Roman doctrine. But we wish simply to show here that Rome claims the right to annul civil laws that do not meet with her approval.

Last June a colporteur of the American Bible Society who was distributing Bibles in Brazil, was ordered by an officer, under direction of the Catholic priest, to give up his books. He had forty-seven Bibles, fifty Testaments and one hundred Gospels. They were all taken to the marketplace, saturated with oil, and burned.

During the past quarter of a century more than 3,000 members have been added to the roll of the Presbyterian Church, Somers Town, London, under the ministry of the Rev. Z. B. Woffendale. Ninety per cent., of the members have been gathered into Church fellowship, only the remaining 10 per cent., being transferred from other congregations.

The late Dr. Deems relates that one of God's faithful stewards once said to him: "I sat down a night or two ago and calculated the increase of a dollar at compound interest, and found that in less than two hundred and forty years it amounted to more than two and a half millions of dollars. And I asked myself whether God would not make a dollar laid up for Him grow as rapidly as it does by the laws of trade."

Russia is rapidly pushing forward the most stupendous railway enterprise of the age, and now, according to *Invention*, she is getting ready to connect the Baltic ports with the Black Sea by means of a canal 1,000 miles in length, at a cost of £20,000,000: Russia is something of both a mystery and a menace to Western Europe, and there are not a few indications that point to her taking a much more prominent and aggressive part in European politics in the near future than she has done since the overthrow of the first Napoleon.

Presbyterians who keep watch of the growth of their Church abroad as well as at home, will be interested in the address made at the reception given to U. S. Pilgrims in London by Dr. Dykes Principal of the Theological College in London. In his address he refers to a project to remove it from London to the neighborhood of one of the great English Universities. This is explained by the fact that the College has received a large bequest or endowment, conditioned on its removal to Cambridge, as Mansfield College, of which Principal Fairbairn, who is so well known in this country by his books and his lectures, is the head, has already been planted beside the towers of

Oxford. This change is to be made with the idea, as expressed by Principal Dykes, that its transfer to the seat of one of the ancient Universities may bring the Theological College more in touch with English scholarship and life.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press makes the statement that nearly one-third of the 7,000 lakes in Minnesota eleven years ago have already disappeared or are likely to permanently disappear from the beautiful "Lake State" landscape. Increasing cultivation of the soil and decreasing woodland areas are ascribed as the causes of this remarkable phenomenon. Lake Michigan, also, has been lower this year than ever known before in the memory of man.

Among an interesting collection of relics brought from Russia for the Memorial museum at San Francisco last week were two guns that were on the ship commanded by Behring, after whom Behring Sea was named. The guns were hauled overland from Cronstadt, two centuries ago, through Russia and Siberia, 9,000 miles, to the Pacific. The vessel sank in the Okhotsk sea, and the guns remained under water for 150 years, and until about a year ago.

The Italian national anniversary of September 20th, 1870, has elicited many an ultramontane protest. Bishop Horstmann, of Cleveland, Ohio, issued a letter to his clergy dated Sept. 5th, in which he states the nature of his church. After repeating the stale falsehood that since 1870 "the Holy Father has been practically a prisoner in the Vatican," the bishop says: "Loyalty to the Pope is the touchstone of Catholicity." In plain words, Pope-worship is the distinctive feature of Roman "Catholicity."

We are indebted to the *British Medical Journal* for another testimony in favor of the total abstinence platform. We are wont to hear from year to year of the remarkable influence which Temperance has upon the Army in India. During the past statistical year, and dealing with twenty-six corps, the admissions into hospitals were abstainers, 6.6; non-abstainers, 12. In trials by court-martial ninety-four abstainers were convicted against 2,131 non-abstainers; or nearly ten times as many convictions per 1,000 of the drinkers as of the non-drinkers. In cases of summary punishment for insubordination the figures stand 48.86 per 1,000 among abstainers as against 92.84 of non-abstainers. In convictions for minor offences the difference is still more marked, for of abstainers only 22.2 per 1,000 were convicted against 99.7 per 1,000 of non-abstainers. In the words of the *British Medical Journal*, "we need hardly point to the obvious moral of the great finance and efficiency values of temperate soldiers."

The converts on the Island of Ancityum in the New Hebrides set a good example in the matter of benevolence. Having been taught by Dr. and Mrs. Inglis how to prepare arrow-root for the market, they make money enough in this manner to pay entirely for the Bible which Dr. Inglis had translated into their language, and are now giving the proceeds of the industry to the Free Church of Scotland, which sent out their missionary. The contribution of this year will amount to about \$5,00. The natives also keep up twenty-eight village schoolhouses in Ancityum.