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NOTE AND COMMENT

At the Women's Home Missionary Conference, held a week ago, in connection with the Northfield meetings, Rev. J. Munro Gibson, D.D., of London, England, was one of the principal speakers.

The trustees of the Stirling tract enterprise have appointed Mr. Thomas Taylor, who has been long associated with Drummond's Tract Depot, to be manager, in room of the late Rev. W. Agnew, who was editor and manager for some years.

The hierarchy of the Orthodox Church of Russia are bitterly opposing the services held in Moscow by the Baptists. The latter have taken advantage of the Czar's decree of religious liberty, and have even held a baptismal service.

In a discussion of the virtues of "open-mindedness" the Congregationalist utters this thought, which may afford some comfort to the conservatives, and should be a wholesome admonition to the progressives: "Neither ought we fail to remember, in opening our minds to the new, to refrain from shutting them against the old. The light of God shines into our hearts from the past as truly as out of the future."

The report of the British labour delegates who went to Germany, in May last, to inquire into the conditions under which the German working man lives and labours has been issued. It says that two things must impress the observant visitor to Germany—the high degree of organization and the high cost of living. It seemed to the visitors, that Germany, individually and collectively, is realising itself, and organizing itself, and that, "in short, it is brains and not tariffs that account for Germany's progress in the world."

The well-known meteorologist, Dr. H. R. Mill, considers that we are entering upon a cycle of wet years. "From 1872 to 1885," he says, "was a very wet period. During nine years of that period the rainfall was much above the average. After that the rule for a time seemed to be two dry seasons to one wet one. But that period appears to be passing away, and I think we have now entered upon a cycle of wet years once again." Dr. Mill does not agree with the theory that wireless telegraphy has anything to do with the rain.

The Shaker community of Union Village near Lebanon, O., has gone into the hands of a receiver. It was once one of the largest and most prosperous communities of the society, and the most flourishing west of the Alleghenies. It had at one time 500 members, with large farms, and did a large business in seeds and other agricultural products, and in goods of Shaker manufacture. Its membership has now dwindled to twenty-four men and women, the youngest of whom is seventy years old, and it has had no recruits for many years. It is the last of three Shaker villages that once flourished in Ohio. The parties who applied for receivership, members of the community, represented that it had 4,000 acres of land, valued at \$400,000, and \$200,000 of other property. But the people are physically unable to take care of it, and have no heirs. The receivership is to hold till the death of the last member, when the property is to be sold, and the proceeds turned over to the community at Mount Lebanon, N.Y., Of all the communistic societies that have been started in this country and have attracted much interest, the Amana community in Iowa is the only one that continues to be prosperous.

The Directors of the Grand Trunk Pacific have elected the Hon. Senator Dandurand one of their number. As is known, Mr. Alfred Brunet, represents the Government of the Board already. La Patrie rejoices sincerely in the nomination of Mr. Dandurand.

Our contemporary, The Congregationalist, of Boston, well says: Perhaps no one cause contributes to short-term pastorates more than the resentment of country ministers against the inadequacy of the salary and the harsh judgments of parishioners on the pastor who does not live within his means.

The Government of India, acting on the unanimous advice of local governments, are convinced that the continuance of the Act preventing seditious meetings is essential to preserve the peace. The notice announces that on August 5th, the introduction of a Bill in the Legislative Council will be made, renewing the Acts until March 31st, next.

The Rev. W. C. Johnston, after fourteen years of service at Eufelen, in Africa, as a Presbyterian missionary, describes a great success in connection with a revolution that has been accomplished in the method of doing the work, by abandoning the old "alms-giving" system and substituting the rule of pay. Self-help and self-respect have been stimulated. Attendance has grown, till the old church building, successively enlarged until it now seats fifteen hundred persons, is thronged to overflowing. The schools are crowded with pupils who pay for tuition, and the industrial schools are "an astonishing success." Two of their departments turned out \$2,400 worth of products last year.

The charms of Babu English bid fair to be eclipsed by the men who write the advertisements of the Swiss hotels. Travel and Exploration collects a few recent examples: "Artful executed Mauric dining saloon—sight tower with sea-and-Alpine panorama." "A game pere with numerous beasts in the utmost idillic small valley." "Carbonic acid baths, odoriferous baths and baths recommended by physicians." "Most ideal spring-and-autumn resort for those who seek recover and quietness. Unrivaled stand-quarter for the most charming excursions." "Rooms provided almost with balconies." "Moderst hotel in the place—directly lain at the port-railway station."

One of the worst enemies that the South African colonists have to combat is the brown locust of the Kalahari Desert, which periodically sends forth devouring swarms into the settled regions on the south. In March, 1909, enormous swarms of these destroyers invaded Cape Colony, overspreading an area of 125,000 square miles. The insects lay their eggs in the invaded regions during the winter, and the eggs are hatched during the next summer's rains. The South African Central Locust Bureau—the existence of such an organization shows the seriousness of the plague—gives warning that great energy will be required during the coming summer to destroy the insects. Nothing, it is thought, could be done to combat the locusts in their desert stronghold, and attention must be concentrated upon the destruction of the young locust as they hatch out.

When you judge the lawfulness or the unlawfulness of a pleasure, take this rule: Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes off your relish of spiritual things; whatever increases the authority of your body over your mind—that thing to you is sin.—Susanna Wesley to her son John.

CONSTRUCTIVE CHRISTIANITY.

Jesus is the carpenter—the constructive force in human life and in society. The man who is on His side makes, builds, raises up. He tunnels through mountains of human misery when he cannot cast them into the depths of the sea. He flings across gulfs of dark despair bridges of eternal hope. He makes straight through the dreary desert of an uncivilized civilization a highway for the march of an emancipated people. The man who yields himself in simple loyalty to Christ and seeks to live in His spirit, is a medium of light, a source of health, a centre of knowledge, a saving energy, a redemptive force, a tendency making for righteousness and making for love. Each one who has come out of selfishness into service has become a saviour. He has crossed over from the side of things which spoil and lay waste and destroy. He is one with all good men everywhere, all good movements, all angels of heavens, all operations of God for saving men. I pray you join yourself to these forces this day. The first step is to say to yourself, "I belong to Christ." Say that to-day, this instant, now! Say it and mean it, and in this moment the destroying forces have lost one vigorous unit, and the energies of righteousness have received one powerful recruit. Register yourself. Put yourself on record as a follower of Christ. Stand up to be counted by eyes which see the invisible. Rise in your soul of souls and name the name of Christ. "Roaming in thought over the universe, I saw the little that is Good steadily hastening toward immortality, and the vast all that is called Evil I saw hastening to merge itself and become lost and dead." Brother, I call you from that death to this immortality. Choose well; your choice is brief, but eternal.—Charles F. Aked, in New York Christian Advocate.

WHAT BROUGHT HER.

A useful and active member of a certain church told a younger woman in it, "One day, the story of her membership. "Years ago I was a maid in a house near that of your family," she said, "and I was very shy and afraid to come to church. I did not think anybody cared whether a servant went to church or not; but one day your mother spoke to me very kindly at the gate, and asked me to go with her to the prayer-meeting. I went, and every word seemed to be for me. I went several times, both to church and to prayer-meeting, and then your father spoke to me about my interest in the church, and asked me to join it. That is how I came to be a Christian—not by the work of any teacher or evangelist, but just because of two Christians who cared enough to help me to God."

"Two small acts of Christian brotherhood—how direct a work they did! Yet the busy woman who asked the housemaid at the gate to come to prayer meeting, and the busy man who spoke to her after church, probably thought they had little chance to do anything toward saving souls. They did what they could, along their daily way—that was all; but really that is all that is needed to produce true and immediate results. The busy church member who leaves all efforts to bring people to church, to the minister, is missing a daily opportunity and a daily blessing. "They cared enough to help me to God"—that is the secret of true ministry for Christ, and there is always time for it and place for it in every life. If every young Christian would but believe this, and practice it, the churches would be filled, and the minister would feel the power of a hundred helpers behind every sermon preached.—Forward.

A candle that won't shine in one room is very unlikely to shine in another.—J. Hudson Taylor.