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EVER READY.

Unto the glory of Thy holy name,
Eternal God I whom I both love and fear,
Here bear I witness that I never came
Before Thy throne and found Thee loath to hear,
But ever ready with an open ear.
And though sometimes Thou seem'st Thy face to hide
As one that hath his love withdrawn from me,
'Tis that my faith may to the full be tried,
And I thereby may only better see
How weak I am when not upheld by Thee.

OVER LAND AND SEA.

Multitudes who welcome the approach of the Sabbath, because it affords them a day of blessed relief from toil, do not recognize it as a good gift of God; yet the Sabbath is not known as a day of rest, where God is not known.

The Church of Scotland according to its year book, has 81 Presbyteries, 16 provincial Synods and 620,376 communicants. The increase of communicants during the last twenty years has been 7,600 per annum. The Home and Foreign Mission schemes incomes have fully doubled during the last twenty-two years.

Rev. Dr. Scott, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, in a recent sermon, deplors the ease with which some give up the truth. He says that, in the spirit of concession, they are willing to make peace with opponents by accommodating the truth to what are called the demands of an enlightened age. And so one article of faith is superfluous, and another is an open question. But they seldom consider that when they begin to make concessions the battle is simply lost—the more they concede the more they will be asked to surrender.

Presbyterianism seems to thrive in the dark Continent. The Presbyterian Church of South Africa has now its General Assembly, in which are represented the Free Church, with three Presbyteries; the United Presbyterian Church, with two Presbyteries; the separate Presbyteries of Natal, Cape Town, and the Transvaal, and the congregation of Port Elizabeth. The united body claims to have 13,000 communicants, of whom three-fourths are natives. Outside this community there are other two Presbyterian churches in South Africa—the Dutch Reformed, with 160,000 members; and the Basuto Church, with over 9,000 members.

A citizen of Glasgow, who does not wish his name to be disclosed, has made a gift of £5,000 to Glasgow charitable and religious institutions. The Royal Western Infirmarys each receive £1,000; the Victoria Infirmary, £500; the Home Mission of Wellington United Presbyterian Church, £1,000, and the Augmentation Scheme of the United Presbyterian Church, £500.

In 1895, says Dr. Stalker, the number of apprehensions for drunkenness in Glasgow was over 40,000. Yet there were only two prosecutions of publicans for

supplying liquor to intoxicated persons. In Liverpool there were 6,000 apprehensions for drunkenness, and 39 prosecutions. Which means that the law with regard to this matter is practically a dead letter in Glasgow. The Association for the Promotion of Temperance and Morals has its work before it.

It is proposed to hold another great International Exhibition in Glasgow in 1901. The beginning of the 20th century is, it is felt, an era in the history of the human race worthy of a special effort and of some new departure, and it is suggested that an Exhibition illustrative of art, science, invention, and industry during the 19th century would fitly and properly inaugurate the 20th century in this great centre of industry and commerce. The question is under consideration by the Glasgow Corporation, and will, in all likelihood, be carried out.

Sunday is rigorously observed at Sandringham, writes Mr. Arthur Beavan in the *Sunday Magazine* for February describing the life of the Prince and Princess of Wales in their country home. Save in an emergency, no carriage is ever used, except for the Princess, who is always driven to and from the church. Facing the family pew in Sandringham Church is a smaller one, with an ordinary bench in front, both of which are occupied by the more distinguished of the house-party. Here has sat many a Prime Minister—Mr. Gladstone, Lord Rosebery, the Marquis of Salisbury, and, years ago, Lord Beaconsfield.

It may be of interest to know what Church in the world is accounted the wealthiest. This recognition is generally assigned to the Orthodox Church of Russia. As evidence of this, it is stated "that it could easily pay the national debt of the empire, amounting to about £200,000,000, or nearly \$1,000,000,000, and yet not be impoverished." This seems almost incredible, but it must be remembered that it has some very lucrative sources of revenue. One of the most profitable is the sale of candles. Being "consecrated candles," there is an enormous demand for them during the Easter season.

The Rev. A. Aldridge, late Church of England curate at Huddersfield, has applied to the Presbytery of Yorkshire to be received into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of England. The application is being considered.

Although missionaries worked in New Zealand without any converts for eleven years, there are now 95,000 Christians in its population.

The Fiji Islands contributed last year to Foreign Missions nearly \$25,000.

Rev. S. A. Mutchmore, D.D., of the *Presbyterian Philadelphia*, has given a library of 4,000 volumes to Centre College, Danville, Ky.