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NOTE AND COMMENT

The King is said to have authorized the publication of another volume of Queen Victoria's letters written during the twenty-five years following the Prince Consort's death.

Rev. F. B. Meyer, London, England, is to visit Turkey, China, Japan and Canada in the interest of missions and Sunday-school work. The date of his visit to this country has not yet been announced.

One of the curious results of a big storm off the coast of Nova Scotia last week was that schools of herrings were thrown up along the shore in piles three feet thick. Hundreds of barrels were gathered and shipped to Boston.

The Dalai Lama after four years' wandering in China is returning to his old headquarters in Lhasa. He left, it will be remembered, because of the 'desecration' of the sacred city by the entrance of the expedition of Col. Younghusband.

A pictorial paper gives a portrait of Mrs. Carrie Nation, who is visiting Scotland to prosecute her war against the public-houses. She wears as a badge a small hatchet, indicating her mission to "smash the drink shops." Her reception by many citizens of Glasgow has been far from encouraging.

Rev. Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman the eminent evangelist, believes, as a result of his recently concluded tour of eight of the leading theological seminaries of the United States, that it is certainly time for criticism of the theological seminaries to cease. The tour was undertaken to stimulate the evangelistic spirit in these colleges, and Dr. Chapman has found, to his great pleasure, that the spiritual atmosphere of the seminaries at the present time is "superb."

New York physicians are interested in a case of a six-weeks old baby that is slowly turning to stone. The child is the son of a workman named Benjamin Gordon, and when born it appeared to be dying. The nurse plunged it into cold water, producing a chill, which has resulted in the disease known as sclerema neonatorum. The child's body is icy cold, the legs and arms being rigid, while the lower part of the trunk has the appearance of being a solid mass of stone, the muscles being knit to the bone. Although it suffers excruciating pain at times, the baby's life may yet be saved.

"The Times" describes the form which the proposed monument to John Bunyan in Westminster Abbey is to take—a stained glass window depicting scenes from the "Pilgrim's Progress." The scenes selected are—Christian's meeting with Evangelist; his admittance at the Wicket Gate; his deliverance from the burden of sin at the foot of the Cross; Mr. Interpreter's house; Piety, Prudence, and Charity harnessing him in armour of proof; his fight with Apollyon; Vanity Fair, and crossing the river to the Celestial City. The headlight will depict Christian's entrance into the City and his joyous reception there. The estimated cost of the memorial is £1,200, and to raise this a strong committee has been formed, representative of the Anglican and Free Churches, and of various phases of the national life. Of this committee the Archbishop of Canterbury is president, and Dr. Clifford chairman.

It promises to be a great meeting. Over 4,000 delegates from all parts of the world will attend the national laymen's missionary congress, to be held in Massey Hall, March 31, April 1, 2, and 3. Sir Robert Hart, British Ambassador to China, and R. E. Speer, secretary of the students' volunteer movement will be present. Sir Robert Hart is the best posted of all "foreigners" in Chinese matters.

That Queen Alexandra has a keen sense of humor must be evident to anyone who has glanced through her Christmas book of "snap-shots." A pretty story just told of her shows that her humor can be expressed verbally as well as pictorially. Visiting a hospital recently her Majesty asked a child where she lived. "Behind Barker's," the little patient replied, adding, "and where do you live, miss?" "Oh, I," said the Queen; "I live in front of Goringe's." For the benefit of those who do not know London well I should explain that Goringe's is a big draper's in Buckingham Palace Road.

Mr. R. H. Campbell, Superintendent of Forestry, in consequence of reports from district agents, has issued a national warning that the timber wealth of Canada is in danger of destruction by the reckless depletion of forest areas. He urges that immediate steps shall be taken to prevent the destruction of the forests, whether by improper deforestation, by fires, or by wanton destruction. He points out that the United States and other nations are devoting greater attention than ever before to this question in the light of official reports from Asia, Africa, and other parts of the world proving the serious injury of a lasting nature that spoliation of forest wealth inflicts upon a country.

A Baptist exchange begins a column of editorial sentences with this beautiful sentiment, "Kindness draws always." The next statement is not so beautiful—"Texas Baptists are long on wind." A little further down the column is another beautiful sentiment—"God's love in the heart makes one lovely." Following this is the announcement that a certain brother has been asked to become a corresponding secretary, with the addition of this keen thrust, "He has never been known to turn down a position as secretary." And, before this editor is done with his column, he further delivers himself of this pious declaration: "This paper has never intentionally wronged any one."

Bulgaria has proposed to pay to Turkey \$8,000,000 for the railroad running through Bulgarian territory, and \$12,000,000 as the capitalized value of the tribute paid by Eastern Roumelia, Turkey to waive all claims to further tribute from any part of Bulgaria. The railroad may be regarded as an investment, as it is doubtless worth all that is offered for it. The \$12,000,000 is the price of independence, and is cheaper than war. Bulgaria, as constituted by the British treaty, was to pay no tribute. But Eastern Roumelia was made a tributary province. The letter has since been absorbed by Turkey and is included in the present Bulgaria. The Turkish ministers hesitate to accept the offer, fearing the opposition of the Young Turk party in the parliament when it meets; but a way will probably be found to settle the matter.

It is gratifying to learn from a religious paper that the United Free Church colleges maintain their position as centres of attraction for those inclined to either the theological study or to a theological career. At New College, Edinburgh, there are seventy-eight students, of whom sixteen are studying privately. At Glasgow 100 are enrolled, comprising seventy-nine regular and twenty-one private students. Aberdeen with twenty on the roll, two being private, brings up the aggregate of the three colleges to 159 regular students, in addition to thirty-nine who are reading theology for love of it. As indicative of the efficiency of the men who have entered the U. F. halls this winter, it may be stated that out of forty-five entrants thirty-eight completed a full Arts course.

The convention at Cape Town, held for the purpose of considering the closer union of South Africa, has nearly concluded its labors and has unanimously agreed upon a compromise between unification and federation. The present state boundaries will be abolished. Cape Colony, Natal, Transvaal and Orange River Free State will be divided into six equal parts for purposes explicitly defined as local government by single chamber legislatures, all the powers, except those so defined, being vested in a central parliament. The two questions, which have given rise to the most contention, those relating to the franchise and the natives, have been settled to the satisfaction of all the delegates, and the British party is fully contented with the manner in which the Imperial interests have been safeguarded.

A correspondent of the "Yorkshire Post," referring to the poverty of many of the clergy, asks in what other "learned profession," to which access is gained by an expensive education (in case of clergy not completed till the age of twenty-three), would a man after twenty or even thirty years of work, with increasing experience, have to be content with a salary of £150. Some years ago (he adds) I heard of a clergyman's wife dying for lack of the expert skill of a medical specialist, which was beyond the means of the poor country parson, while his wealthy parishioners, who could have doubled the income of the living without putting down their earriages, considered their obligations discharged by the occasional gift of a brace of partridges.

A prominent banker, in an address to young men, said: "Of course difference in minds, in industry, in mental capacity and in many other things must entail corresponding differences in results, but with all of these things equal, put two men alike in age, side by side in the same business, one tricky and the other honest, while the tricky one may seem to be more prosperous for a time, the honest man will overtake and pass him, if for no other reason than this, while the one is securing public confidence, the other one is gradually losing it. But this leaves out of the account all of those things which go to make the real success in life, the respect of others; and then this, one's self-respect, without which it were better that the man had not been born." Surely the man's judgment ought to be worth something to a young man. All the world is afraid of a tricky man; and, if he is tricky, a considerable proportion of the world about him will find it out—and drop him.