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NOTE AND COMMENT

The Chinese boycott of Japanese goods is becoming so serious that Japan is seeking the support of Great Britain to put a stop to it.

Paris has now twenty polyglot policemen who are fully qualified interpreters in English, German and Spanish. They have been, it is said, subjected to a good deal of banter from *Parijans*, who delight in putting questions to them in different English and equally shaky German.

It was declared in Rome that the Pope would refuse to annul *Mme. Gould's* marriage to Count Boni de Castellane so that the Prince de Sagan might marry her, and following that came an announcement that the Prince would become a Protestant so that he could wed *Mme. Anna Gould*.

The Rev. Dr. Meharry has reached the twentieth anniversary of his ministry at Crouch Hill, London. During that period, nearly 2,000 members have joined the fellowship of the congregation. In 1888 the membership was 222; it is now 869, exclusive of mission members. Dr. Meharry is an eloquent Irishman.

Russia has added to the causes of divorce "leaving the Orthodox church." The law already provided that if a Russian left the State Church his children would be taken away from him and placed under the care of those who would bring them up in the Orthodox faith. Now a man or woman who leaves the State Church in Russia incurs the possible loss of all his family.

The statesmen of Belgium are still discussing the question whether that government will accept the guardianship and control of the Congo Free State, which has heretofore been under the control of King Leopold and to all practical purposes his private estate. In the treaty which provides that the Free State shall be turned over to the Belgian government, there are many conditions which make it very questionable whether Belgium is about to accept a really valuable gift or a "white elephant" which will cause trouble. Those favoring annexation dwell upon the great wealth of the Congo region and its value to Belgium trade and industrial development; the opposite party claim that annexation would bring a great financial burden which would result in an annual deficit, estimated at \$3,000,000.

The British Government has from time to time faced strong suspicion and distrust in India. The goodwill of 300,000,000 people is something worth striving for, and the British Government does strive to gain it by all honorable means; one potent means employed is the building of hospitals and dispensaries throughout the land. Missionary societies and public-spirited doctors can do much to aid in carrying out this policy. Certain it is that the medical profession and nurses have had much to do in creating a good spirit in India toward the Home Government. This is one of the many obligations that the British nation owes to the medical profession, and it should be one good reason in patriotic minds for having nothing to do with Christian Science or any other cult that attacks the medical profession. A doctor helped to deliver the Gospel of Christ to the world, and the doctor and his work are entitled to the respect of all good citizens.

"When a man begins to argue for a lower standard of ethics than he used to hold up," said a keen observer of men, "it is fair to suspect him of having already lowered the standard of morals in his personal life." To which may be added the further observation that when a man begins to argue that nobody can be trusted, and that no man's motives are pure, there is dry rot commencing or progressing in that man's soul.

The Interior tells of a young man who, having the ministry in view, went to the Divinity School of the Chicago University. He completed the course of study, and then abandoned the idea of preaching, giving as his reason that Dr. Foster had taught him that "there is nothing miraculous in the Bible, that Jesus Christ was the Son of God only in the sense that all of us are, that the death of Jesus Christ did nothing for us," etc.

The State of Kansas has one hundred and five counties, over one-half of which is said not to have a single pauper. Kansas expelled the saloon years ago, and while brewers, distillers and moralists of a certain type are ever insisting that more whiskey is sold in Kansas than in any neighboring State, the fact remains that one-half of the poorhouses are empty. The Westminster adds: It may be coincidence or it may be cause and effect. We think it the latter.

In speaking of the death of a patient whom he had operated upon for appendicitis, a surgeon is reported as saying that "the operation was successful, but that the patient did not recover from the shock." The object of any operation is to save life. If it fails to save life, it is not successful, and the surgeon makes a failure of that particular case. Too many surgeons seem to have lost sight of this in their enthusiasm for cutting, not for curing.

The Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, which met recently in Wellington, reports a membership of 32,000, and an income for the year of £150,000. There are 389 churches (206 being fully recognized "charges"), with 56 home-mission stations. These are ministered to by 240 ordained pastors, and 1,352 elders. As in Australia, the number of Presbyterian communicants in proportion to the Presbyterian population is unusually small. According to the latest census returns, 203,000 persons enrolled themselves as Presbyterians throughout the colony. Seating accommodation has as yet been provided for only 90,000, so that there is ample room for church extension.

Alluding to some differences between the old school and the new in theology, among Congregationalists, "The Congregationalist and Christian World" says: "When our Lord was with His first disciples they often disputed over their question which of them would be greatest in Christ's Kingdom. The chief contention among modern disciples is over His question, 'Whom say ye that I am?' Yet they could, no doubt, answer now as did all the disciples through Peter, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.' Jesus was satisfied with that answer and declared that it was a revelation from the Father. His disciples who can say it in sincerity to-day ought not to feel obliged to separate from one another because of differences of opinion as to who He is."

Among the tributes to Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman that of Premier Botha was especially notable. "In securing self-government for the new Colonies," said General Botha, "he not only raised an imperishable monument to himself but through the policy of trust, he inspired the people of South Africa with a new feeling of hopefulness and co-operation. In making it possible for the two races to live and work together harmoniously, he has laid the foundation of a united South Africa."

In March, 1904, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, speaking to a deputation of liquor-sellers who came complaining of the heavy taxation, said: "The trade might pay the tax in the first instance, but they were only collectors. They would recover it from the consumer." Sir George Murray, when chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, once dined with the brewers, and in his responding speech, said to them: "Through their agency he was enabled to collect—to extract from the pockets of the people—a large sum of money, and, through their agency, he was enabled to do this without their knowing anything about it." There can be no question that the liquor trade in a very real sense pays no taxes; the drinkers, the drunkards, and their families pay all the taxes which are levied on the trade. It is well for us not to lose sight of this.

A hopeful view of the present state of Protestantism in Germany is based partly on articles published by such writers as Prof. Schodde and Dr. Christlieb, who are eminently qualified to judge in this matter, partly on the personal observation of the writer. This view is strengthened by the constant increase of the number of Protestants at the expense of the Catholics in Germany, as is seen from the following paragraph published in the church papers: "Statistics show that in Germany the number of Catholics who become Protestants greatly exceeds the number of Protestants who become Catholics. From 1890 to 1904, 75,978 Catholics became Protestants, while but 10,654 Protestants became Catholics. The Catholic authorities blame 'mixed marriages' for the larger amount of apostasy. In several of the minor states of the German Empire there have been no conversions from Protestantism to Catholicism, but in every state and every year there are conversions to Protestantism."

Mr. Asquith, Prime Minister of Britain, owes much of his success to self-help. Unwearied industry and solid ability have secured for him the highest honor under the Crown. Born at Morley, in Yorkshire, in 1852, he first went to a Moravian school at Fulneck, and then to the City of London School, where the closest application to study won for him a scholarship that took him to Balliol College, Oxford. Here he came under the influence of Jowett. After a notable career at the university he returned to his old school as a tutor. Called to the Bar in 1876, he entered Parliament for East Fife in 1886, was junior counsel to Russell in the Parnell Commission in 1890, and "took silk" in 1890. He was Home Secretary in 1892-5, and became Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1905. He is the first lawyer since 1812 who has achieved the Premiership. Intellectually he probably has no rival in the present House of Commons, but his rise is due in large measure to his infinite capacity for taking pains.