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NOTE AND COMMENT.

That natives of the Cannibal Islands in Melanesia should now engage in pioneer philanthropic work for the other islands seem almost incredible. Yet when the people of Savo Island asked that teachers be sent to them, four volunteers from Florida Island, formerly one of the most savage settlements, responded to the call.

A prominent leader in the British Parliament, Mr. R. W. Perks, stated recently in order to test the efficacy of foreign mission work he placed a report of twenty years ago side by side with one of the present time and compared the figures. As a result of his study he increased his annual gift for this work from \$50 to \$2,500.

The universities of the country are falling into line in establishing outposts in foreign countries. Oberlin has its Shansi mission. Yale supports a flourishing work in China, Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania are also represented there and Princeton is enlarging its foreign missionary enterprise by undertaking the entire support of important Y. M. C. A. work in Peking.

The temperance crusade in the Province of Quebec led by Archbishops Bruchesi and Begin is moving on very successfully. On the first Sunday in this month in the church of St. Sauveur, Quebec, over twelve hundred married men took the temperance cross, which corresponds to signing the pledge. On a previous Sunday, more than eight hundred young men of the same parish "took the cross."

The Panama National Assembly has unanimously approved a bill prohibiting all gambling, and by this time it has no doubt been signed by President Amador. The United States authorities have already prohibited it in the Canal Zone, so that now the law stands as it should on this question throughout the Isthmus. Now it is the turn of the officers of the law, and it is their part to see that the law is enforced!

Here is a paragraph from the Detroit Free Press which throws light on the way in which some silk manufacturers in the United States "doctor" silk fabrics in order to increase their profits:—"A large part of all the silk made in this country is treated with a preparation of tin until there is sometimes considerably more tin than silk. Raw the fabric is repeatedly dipped in a solution of tin to one of silk. The dipping process is repeated until the fabric has taken up all the solution it will hold. This tin-loading process increases the manufacturers' profits, but it renders it to split when woven. The baking process gives the brilliant lustre, but injures the goods. Of course, stretching the silk enables the manufacturer to make more fabrics out of a given quantity of raw material and thus increases his profits."

An evangelist in the United States recently said: "Nine-tenths of all the professional gamblers were taught to play cards in their homes, as shown by actual statistics from investigations, and seven out of ten were taught to play cards in homes of professing Christians." And the Herald and Presbyterian pertinently adds: "Probably the same proportion would hold as to the victims of professional gamblers."

Rev. Alfred Wasson, writing from Korea of its Methodist missions, says: "The Korean church is filled with the spirit of self-sacrifice. They build their own country churches, and each circuit supports the kingdom among his heathen neighbors. Many of the poorer Christians obtain money for supporting the preacher by taking out a handful from their regular allowance of rice each day and selling it. Every convert is a missionary."

The Chicago Interior says that American missionaries in Korea protest against the common newspaper references to that country as "decadent." They pertinently inquire whether "militant" Japan or "literate" China can show such a record of Christian activity, intelligence and success as that which has been given the world by the Presbyterian church at Pyongyang. This church, with a regular Sunday attendance of from 1,000 to 1,200, a membership of 1,435 and five suburban offshoots, each managed independently since February last, recently canvassed the large city in which it is located and carried a gospel invitation to every individual citizen. It is not only self-supporting, but it plants its numerous missions, and is but one of a Presbytery in which 27 out of 52 church buildings have been enlarged during the year, while in the same bounds 18 wholly new edifices have been erected. For every dollar of Board money used in the Korean work, the Koreans contributed over \$8 last year. If the Christian people of Canada and the United States don't look out the Korean Christians will give them pointers in Christian work and Christian giving.

Rev. J. H. Jowett, preaching at Birmingham, Eng., referred to the awakening of China, commenting upon the significance of the fact that so many thousands of Chinese students are now at the University of Tokio as evidence of the alertness of the Chinese mind. Mr. Jowett said he was not afraid of what it was the fashion to call the "yellow peril", for he was in touch with the most influential missionaries in China—men who were exercising a great and beneficent influence upon the most advanced thinkers and statesmen of that great country. Japan, like the "little one that has become a thousand," has been, as it were, born in a day, and was exerting tremendous influence upon China. Mr. Jowett pleaded for the best and most cultured missionaries to be sent out to China, and expressed his intense satisfaction with the group of young men and women who at the great missionary meeting recently held at Woburn, Mass., gave evidence of their whole-hearted consecration to their mission work. An earnest appeal was made to parents not to hinder but to encourage their sons and daughters, if qualified to give themselves to the mission field.

One of the English weeklies gives this account of a most remarkable Sunday school teacher: "Miss Ann Owen, who has died at Warwick at the age of ninety-five, had been for eighty-two years a teacher in Brook Street Independent Sunday school. She lived her whole life in the house in which she was born. She early got a great love of the Bible, and knew John's Gospel by heart before she was thirteen. She taught girls whose mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers had been in her class."

An Anglican clergyman in England has published some sharp criticism of choirs in that Communion. He says they are accompanied by three "lively devils," namely—"the dress devil, the flirting devil, and the quarrelling devil." There is more plain speech of this vigorous sort, and as the writer is speaking of the Episcopal Church choirs he roundly condemns the "gallop-and-gabble" method of rattling through the service—even the confession of sin—at breakneck speed, as if it were "the merriest thing imaginable." The Belfast Witness suggests that some of these delinquencies can be found even in Presbyterian choirs.

The movement for restoring Sunday as a true rest day in France has attracted wide attention and many will wish to know how well the new laws are being observed. From the London Christian we get an item which indicates progress in the right direction. It quotes from the report of the London International Commercial Association, 150 members of which visited Paris, Lyon, Marseilles and other centres as a deputation, that "Everywhere we saw signs that the movement for Sunday closing is making headway, and our hosts considerably arranged no programme for their guests on Sunday," and adds: "It may be true that the newly acquired privilege is not yet so wisely utilized in all cases as those interested in the highest welfare of the people could desire, but nevertheless the step is in the right direction."

A statement made by Philadelphia druggists who have organized to secure a day of rest, calls for very serious self-examination on the part of the Christians everywhere. In their request to the public to aid them in the matter, they charge that many of their customers who make Sunday trade, and complain of it being stopped, are church members. The unfortunate part of the charge says the Lutheran Observer, is that we all know that it is true, and that not only those in the drug business, but dealers in provisions, confectioners, news-boys and news-dealers the great mass of men employed on the steam and electric railroads, as well as many others, might bring the same testimony, and might even go so far as to declare that if it were not for the patronage of the professed Christians, and their insistence on being served, these various forms of Sunday work would not have, and would be tremendously curtailed, if not abolished entirely, except where there is real necessity. It is the participation in those things by Christians that makes them respectable and that in many a case is the determining factor in turning those who still have scruples into the ranks of those who "see no harm" in Sunday buying and in Sunday travel.