

An Outstanding Feature.

The national hopefulness of the Jew was the outstanding feature in a recent address by the Chief Rabbi in London, England, and it might well be so. All the world has been trying to crush the Jew for more than three thousand years, and it has failed. The whole history of the race from the oppression in Egypt onwards has told of the endurance of persecutions which would have inevitably extinguished the life of almost any other nation. The mightiest of the conquerors of the world have in turn tried to root them out. Egypt came first. Then Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, all of them in the ancient world, were the oppressors and would-be destroyers of the little scattered and forlorn people of Israel. All the oppressors have vanished from the earth, but the Jew remains with all the distinctive peculiarities of his race.

Then in Christian times each of the nations of Europe in turn has played the part of exterminators of the Jew, and they have all found the task too hard for them. There is reason for the Jew to hope that the same strange providence which has guarded his race through all the changes of so many thousand years will still continue to protect it till all the great purposes for which the Jew appeared on the stage of history are fulfilled. And it is fitting that the chief ruler of the Jewish people in Great Britain should emphatically acknowledge the honorable manner in which for at least the last two centuries and a half Britain has behaved towards the Jew. It was not always thus even in this country.

Mr. Frank Paton writes from Australia the following distressing news—The other day I heard from Dr. Gunn, of Aneityum. He had been to our station at Lenukel and found that a labor schooner had carried off sixty-four (or fifty-seven) natives to Queensland—ten of these were members of our Candidates' Class, and many others were worshippers. It is very disheartening, but they are in God's hands, and our heart's daily prayer is that they may fall into Christian care in Queensland. A French schooner had also called and got twenty-one natives to take to Noumea. May God help these poor misguided people.

Mr. David Paterson writes from Pangkuma, Malekula—The Sabbath service at Mr. Milne's station at Nguna was a never-to-be-forgotten sight. The large church was well filled with worshippers. When they all rose and sang the Hundredth Psalm, my soul was filled with emotion. I could not but think of the wondrous change that the Gospel had wrought in an island not long since inhabited by savage and inveterate cannibals.

The Bible—Jesus Christ.

The Bible is not only a bead-roll of faith, not only a record of heroic testimony, a treasury of splendid experience, but it is also a unity, a single Book, a single, supreme, consistent, continuous action. From end to end it says one thing and one only; it recalls one single event. What is that? We know it well! By St. Paul's own special title it is called the mystery, the open secret, the divine act of revelation, the thing that God was always doing under cover, as hidden heaven, yet preparing to be disclosed—the thing that was prepared from the foundation of the world, and that was at last done at the one fit moment, at the time and at the spot made ready according to the end decreed—the Mystery, Jesus Christ, the Hope of Glory. From cover to cover the Book is full of Him and of Him only, one mind felt in it everywhere, one spirit quickening it, one Face looking out. He weeps with all that weep. He suffers with all who suffer, He rejoices with all who rejoice. He it is who determines the shape of the entire material; towards Him it is directed, for His purposes it is distributed, by relation to His arrival, its relative importance is to be estimated; He is the standard of its worth throughout; He is the sole measure of its truth. He gives to the whole varied mass coherence and growth and vitality. Without him it would have no principle to combine its details, to fertilize them, to transmute them. From cover to cover the Bible records the one fact; it is a body possessed by a single dominant soul, and the Soul that possesses it is Jesus Christ.—Canon Scott Holland.

This I wish you, this is best—
Love that can endure the test,
Love surviving youth and beauty,
Love that blends with home duty;
Love that's gentle, love that's true,
Love that's constant, I wish you.

—E. S. Martin.

Rev. George Jackson, B.A., Edinburgh, in a recent lecture on "John Knox and the Reformation," remarked: The career of Knox could be divided into three clearly marked periods—the years of silence and preparation, the years of exile and wandering, and the years of strife and trial. Knox was very much more than a Scottish reformer, and many facts bore evidence of the remarkable influence which he exercised both in England and on the Continent. In particular, it was through his influence that the remarkable declaration in the communion service of the Anglican Prayer Book, known as "the black rubric," was inserted.

It is stated that there are more than six hundred Jews converted to Christianity, who are preaching the Gospel in Europe. Of these about 350 are in Great Britain.

Explorations in Iceland.

Mr. T. Thoroddsen has completed the exploration of Iceland, to which he has given up his vacations for the past fifteen years. He will now write a full account of the results of his labors, which will be published with his map of Iceland. The New York Sun of recent date published a résumé of his labors. For years his articles on Iceland have been in great demand, and he is regarded as an authority on the inner parts of Iceland. In the fifteen years which he has spent exploring Iceland he has visited every nook and corner, found hundreds of lava fields and glaciers, and traced all the indentations of the coast line, and in valleys scooped out of tough basalt has discovered deep lakes, one of the lakes being 100 feet above the sea level, and its bottom is 275 feet below the level of the ocean. In the fifteen years he has travelled over 8,000 miles among the sandy level wastes. It is not surprising that the exploration of inner Iceland has been left so long, as the field was so small and far away that explorers thought they might win greater laurels in other parts of the world in which the public was more deeply interested. Travel in Iceland is particularly difficult, owing to the fact that large areas of lava-strewn land are destitute of verdure and Mr. Thoroddsen has often been compelled to carry fodder for his horses for many days at a time. There are no roads, and the summer season, which is the only time when travel is possible, is short. He has discovered scores of crater lakes scattered all through the interior. Many craters that help to cover the surface of Iceland with lava have become the receptacles for the drainage from the mountains. We are all familiar with photographs of the moon showing the parched expanse of rock pitted deeply with great numbers of craters. The Iceland explorer thinks that the country around Vatna Jokull would be a terrestrial counterpart of the surface of the moon were it not for the atmosphere and the water of greenish tinge that fills two-thirds of the yawning cavities.

The coming of a new year directs attention to some of the curiosities of the calendar. A century, for instance, cannot begin on a Sunday, or a Wednesday, or a Friday. Again, the same calendars can be used every 20 years. In years that are not leap years the year begins and ends on the same day of the week. So that January begins on the same day as October, April as July, September as December, while February, March and November begin on the same day.

In Braemar a Catholic bridegroom who marries a Protestant bride receives a premium of £10.

Africa has very nearly 700 languages, and this fact presents great difficulties to missionary effort.