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NOTE AND COMMENT

The Rev. Dr. Carnegie Simpson's book, the "Fact of Christ," has just been translated into Chinese by the Religious Tract Society of London. An Irish gentleman who provided the means for its publication has, with his wife, now sent an additional \$100 to provide for a gift being made of it to leading officials in China.

"Gipsy" Smith, the famous evangelist, who conducted a series of successful religious meetings in Canada and the United States last winter, has been leading a ten days' mission in Paris. This is the first time since Moody and Sankey visited the city in 1882 that Protestant revival meetings have been held in the French capital.

The eruption of Mt. Etna, Sicily, is decreasing in violence. Twelve new craters have opened on the mountain. The village of Borello is in serious danger, the stream of lava emitted being more than nine miles long. The villagers are terrorized despite the official statement that the worst is now over.

China is fighting the opium traffic apparently in dead earnest. It is stated that more than 1,000,000 opium dens have been already closed; in eleven out of eighteen provinces the growth of the poppy has almost entirely ceased; and all officials are ordered to cease smoking. But 46,000 chests of opium still enter China from India under treaty with Great Britain. When will Britain's governmental conscience awake in this matter?

In the American Board Mission in Mexico are fifteen missionaries and twenty-nine Mexican teachers and preachers. The twenty-four churches of the mission have over 1,500 communicants, with 3,000 additional adherents. Three of these churches are entirely self-supporting. Last year the Mexican people in our missions paid for support of their own work, both educational and evangelistic, \$12,484. There are nearly seven hundred Mexican youths in schools maintained by the Board.

King Menelik II. of Abyssinia is dead at the age of 68. His successor is Prince Lidl Eyassu, his grandson, a lad of 12. King Menelik gained international respect and prestige in 1896 by inflicting overwhelming defeat upon the Italian army at Adowa, and forcing Italy to abandon its claims to a protectorate over Abyssinia. Since that date Abyssinia has made considerable progress in commerce and civilization, and has entered into treaty relations with Great Britain and other powers. A cabinet council has been appointed, a railway has been built, and compulsory education has been decreed.

Rev. Alexander Frazer, of Tain, who has accepted the call from St. Stephen's U. F. Church, Edinburgh, will be a notable addition to the pulpit of the Scottish capital, says the British Weekly. Mr. Frazer is striking both in appearance and personality, and he is possessed of preaching gifts peculiarly his own. During his ministry in Tain he has become a power throughout the Highlands generally, and his fame as an evangelist has also spread to the Lowlands. He is a powerful speaker, with a vivid style and a dramatic delivery.

A gentleman who was formerly the pastor of John D. Rockefeller (1) a recent sermon is said to have spoken as follows:—"John D. Rockefeller once remarked to me, 'Doctor, do you know what my daily prayer to God is? My prayer is that God will keep me in the same mind, the same thoughts, the same ideals and aspirations.' Mr. Rockefeller, with his fam-

ily, begins each day with prayers. He is the noblest, gentlest and sweetest soul that I ever met." It is at least interesting to get such a glimpse of one who has been so much and so harshly condemned.

There is a public school at Rose Corners, Ont., remarks the Christian Guardian. A rate-payer named McPaul sends his children there, and has lodged the complaint that he cannot get them taught enough English to fit them properly for Canadian citizenship, as the teaching is done mainly in French. Mr. McPaul is a Roman Catholic, but he wants his children taught English. The question is a very pertinent and serious one. "Has a citizen of Ontario the right to demand that in our public schools his children shall be properly taught the English language?" What do our readers think?

The daily newspaper has become a feature on most of the great Atlantic steamship lines. One, the Cunard Daily Bulletin of the Lusitania, has a circulation of two thousand five hundred. In some cases the papers are sold to the passengers, while in others they depend entirely upon advertisements for their support. The news, although brief, must be the latest. The liners being in communication with each other, have access to much that is impossible to papers published on land. By this means the ocean traveller is never out of touch with life. The business man takes his office with him, and the vision of the prophet, "There shall be no sea," is at last fulfilled.

Home influence is a large factor in the direction given to the lives of young men. It is in the home that the boys for the most part are influenced in this or that calling which in maturer years engages their time and attention. That this is largely the case of those who decide to enter the Christian ministry, we have no doubt; and we find ourselves in good company in this thought. The Christian Observer says:—"The home is the place where the largest number of boys and young men decide to become ministers. Of 410 candidates in our churches last year, 287 decided to study for the ministry before they entered college, 85 while they were in college, and 38 after leaving college. Religion in the home is the surest and strongest influence to turn our boys and young men into the ministry."

The metal gold will never lose its fascination for the imagination of men. One of the capital problems of metallurgy has always been to retain the charm while reducing the cost of gold by means of alloys. For many purposes alloyage is necessary in order to impart better wearing qualities to gold. The detection of the precise amount and character of the alloys used with gold tests the skill of assayers to the utmost. Mr. Ernest A. Smith recently explained to the English Institute of Metals some of the difficulties of this work. It appears that alloys of low standard are more or less non-homogeneous, so that samples from different parts of the same ingot vary considerably from one another. Professor Gowland said nine-carat gold is the lowest that should ever be employed in jewelry. The Japanese nine-carat gold employed at the beginning of the last century contained only gold and silver, thus differing from the British alloy, a mixture of gold, tin, copper, zinc, and other metal.

Annoyance and irritation can never come to the person who declines to be annoyed or irritated, says the Sunday School Times. It will help us to maintain the consistent declaration if we realize that every unexpected and in-

terrupting demand upon our time, our plans, and our good-nature, is simply an opportunity for us to show how we are living. Sometimes the telephone bell rings at a very inopportune time, and, upon answering it, we get the reply that an inspector is just testing, to see whether our instrument and its connection are in condition to give us the kind of service that the company seeks to maintain. That is one mission of the things that break in on our life, with a jangling and an insistence that try us sorely, yet that we must respond to: they are "just testing." The kind of response they get from us reveals the condition of our instrument and its connection; we show at once whether the kind of service that is expected is being maintained. Upon our satisfactory and undisturbed answer to these "test calls" depends our ability to answer the really great demands of life.

The Rev. J. Ross Stevenson, D.D., pastor of the Brown Memorial church, Baltimore, is quoted in the "Herald and Presbyter" in a most remarkable statement made with reference to the conversion of a young Russian Jew, whom he had received into his congregation. He said: "I was greatly impressed with some of the statements this young Hebrew made while examining him as to how he was led to accept Jesus as his Saviour. Among the things he told me was, that after coming to the mission he asked his father why the Jews did not study the Old Testament, although they believe it, and the answer he gave him was 'that if anyone studies the Old Testament through he is liable to be led astray into Christianity,' and therefore he was impressed with the importance of endeavoring to get the Jews to study the Old Testament in their own language, and as soon as that is done many Jews will be led to study the New Testament and find Jesus as their Saviour." We have never seen it stated before that the Jews do not study the Old Testament. It would be interesting to know whether this young convert's father was expressing only his own view, or whether there is a growing feeling in the direction indicated. It is certainly interesting if true in more than this isolated case.

The "deadly parallel" and its source in forgotten issues of long-ago newspapers are terrible things when they are rightly applied. An amusing recent illustration of what sometimes happens occurred when "The Morning Star," a Roman Catholic paper, published in New Orleans, in response to a charge that it had advised the burning of Bibles, defied proof, and "unqualifiedly and unhesitatingly characterized" as "a wilful, malicious and monstrous lie" the statement that it had done so. The "Presbyterian of the South," having the paper at hand, at once quoted in reply from "The Morning Star" of May 15, 1909—an issue not yet a year old—where, in the third column of the editorial page, it found all that was necessary to establish the charge. The editor of "The Morning Star" was commenting on the activity of Protestant colporteurs in the parishes of Louisiana, and concluded with this sentence: "Our advice to those who may have been innocently trapped into spending their good money for what they thought was an authorized Bible is to place these books into a stove or furnace where they can be used for kindling material." We do not see "The Morning Star" and do not know what reply it has made, if any. There does not seem to be much to be said. One thing we may be sure of, the editor wishes he had had a little better memory for what he had written, and will be a little more careful in the future how he makes so unqualified a challenge.