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## OVER LAND AND SEA.

In the ancient cathedral of Lubeck in Germany there is an old slab with the following inscription :

Thus speaketh Christ, our Lord, to us ;  
Ye call Me Master, and obey Me not ;  
Ye call Me Light, and see Me not ;  
Ye call Me Way, and walk Me not ;  
Ye call Me Life, and desire Me not ;  
Ye call Me Wise, and follow Me not ;  
Ye call Me Fair, and love Me not ;  
Ye call Me Rich, and ask Me not ;  
Ye call Me Eternal, and seek Me not ;  
Ye call Me Gracious, and trust Me not ;  
Ye call Me Noble, and serve Me not ;  
Ye call Me Mighty, and honor Me not ;  
Ye call Me Just, and fear Me not ;  
If I condemn you, blame Me not.

The meeting of the Pan-Presbyterian Council, convened at Glasgow, Scotland, Wednesday, June 17. The first service was held in the morning in the Cathedral; in the afternoon, in St. Andrews Hall, Rev. W. H. Roberts, D.D., of Philadelphia, delivered the Presidential address. The reports presented by the Executive Committee of the Eastern and Western Sections, which are printed in a neat pamphlet, present facts of much interest on which we may comment at another time.

The statistical report is useful in showing the progress of Presbyterianism. We lay it by the side of the similar report of 1884. In this interval of twelve years, we find a very decided increase in many directions. The number of presbyteries has increased from 1,208 to 1,426; the congregations are reported in this year's statistics, at 31,925; as against the report of 1884, "pastoral charges," 23,821, and "separate congregations," 13,384. Again, the ministers enrolled twelve years ago, were 21,251; this year they number, 27,043. Ruling elders have increased from 101,130 to 130,083, and deacons from 58,610 to 93,013. The figures in Sabbath schools show a very gratifying growth—of schools, from 21,657 to 32,271; of teachers, from 223,313 to 318,665; of pupils, from 1,901,184 to 3,335,654.

A curious Chinese custom consists in throwing thousands of small pieces of paper, each inscribed with a prayer, into the ocean when a friend is about to sail.

Of the seventy thousand breweries in the world, thirty thousand are in Germany, Great Britain has eighteen thousand, and the United States five thousand. Each country uses nearly all its own product, except Germany, which manufactures more than it consumes.

Prof. Max Muller, of Oxford, in a recent lecture has called attention to the largest book in the world, the wonderful "Kutho Daw." It consists of 729 parts in the shape of white marble plates, covered with inscriptions, each plate built over with a temple of brick. It is found near the old priest city of Mandalay, in Burma, and this temple city of more than seven hundred pagodas virtually makes up this monster book, the religious codex of the Buddhists. In accordance with the three parts of which it is composed, generally called in a figurative sense "baskets" (*pitaka*), the whole is often termed "the three baskets" (*tripitaka*) and

constitutes a library larger than the Bible and Koran together. As the Jews figured out that the Old Testament contained 59,493 words and 2,728,100 letters, so the Buddhist priests have computed that the "Tripitaka" contains 275,250 stanzas and 8,808,000 syllables. This monster book is written in Pali. Rather strange to say, it is not an ancient production, but its preparation was prompted by the Buddhistic piety of this century. It was erected in 1857 by the command of Mindomin, the second of the last kings of Burma. As the influence of the tropical climate has already marred the inscriptions, a British official, Mr. Farrars, proposes to have these 792 plates carefully photographed, and asked that the Government, or some friend of science able to do so, make provisions for this. Professor Muller urges that this be done in order to preserve at least the pictures of this unique temple-city book.

A noteworthy contrast is furnished by a recent German literary journal describing what is probably the smallest book in the world. This is a "Konversationslexicon," published in Berlin, and prepared by Daniel Sanders. The volume occupies the space of only six cubic centimeters [.366 cubic inch], altho it is claimed to contain 175,000 words. The book must be read through a microscope especially prepared for it.

It is satisfactory to learn that some of the heavy burdens under which his subjects live have been lightened by the Czar. He has remitted all arrears of taxation in European Russia and Poland, and half the land tax for ten years. He has, moreover, granted remission of punishment to exiles and prisoners according to the degree of their offences and the nature of their penalties.

The State of Ohio has been making some very sensible laws of late. A county is henceforth to be held responsible for all results of mob violence within its borders. A person injured by a mob is entitled to recover damages ranging from \$500 to \$1,000. If life is taken, the relatives have the right to recover from the county \$5,000. The increase of lynching and the laxity of grand juries in indicting the offenders, render such action as this of Ohio a wise protective measure.

The recent coronation of the Czar brings to notice the interesting fact that the Churches of England and Russia have both retained the use of the Chrism in the coronation ritual. In the Roman rite the sovereign is anointed only with oil. In the Greek rite the Chrism which is used at Confirmation is used also in the coronation, the Czar being the only man who receives this unction twice in his life.

Monsignor Nugent, the well-known philanthropist and Temperance advocate, who for the past six months has been making an extended tour through America, where, despite his advanced age, he addressed several large meetings, has returned to Europe.