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NOTE AND COMMENT

An English consul is authority for the statement that, in the last ten years alone, three millions of Africans have lost their lives in efforts to produce rubber.

Helen Keller has opened at Manchester, Mass., the first of what she expects will be a chain of shops for the sale of the handicraft of blind workmen. The display includes fine products of the loom and various house furnishings.

By act of its executive and general committees, the Laymen's Missionary Movement decided, after due deliberation, not to change its name or scope. It is believed that the best results for home and foreign missions will be attained by standing by its original idea of bringing to Christian laymen the demands of the foreign field.

There are in Paris forty-three French Protestant churches, and in the outskirts are forty-seven more, making a total of ninety churches where French Protestants worship. In three of these, English services are also held, and in four of them German services. There is also one Swedish church. The British and American churches number six in all.

The days of heroism and martyrdom are not over. One of the tribesmen who live beyond the British frontier in India became a Christian and went back to his people to tell the story of the Cross. He was told to be silent, but refused. He was seized and one hand cut off, but still told of his Lord. Then they cut off his other hand and one by one his ears and nose. Still he was undaunted. Then they silenced him in the only way possible by cutting off his head.

Many men who have become prominent in national and international leadership have frankly acknowledged their indebtedness to the Sunday school. Wales has an influence amongst the nations out of all proportion to its geographical dimensions. And in Wales, education is looked upon as a question of first importance. It is therefore worthy of note that in that country the most prominent men are fully alive to the worth of the Sunday school. Mr. Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the British Exchequer, recently said that the "best University in Wales is the Sunday school—all the best training I ever had was in the Sunday school."

At the recent Pan-Anglo-Saxon Conference there was much in evidence from different quarters of the world regarding the results of purely secular education. France, Victoria, the United States, and other countries were referred to by various speakers, who were in perfect agreement, based upon personal knowledge, that "the nation which secularizes the education of its children does so at its peril." The Rev. E. A. Dawid, formerly Archbishop of Brisbane, did not hesitate to assert that "the secularization in the educational system of three important States of the Commonwealth unquestionably constituted a serious menace to the well-being of Australia." And as regards New Zealand, the Bishop of Auckland testified to the development of juvenile crime, and added that unless a change were soon made, the country would find that "character could not be built satisfactorily where the fear of God was not an element of the daily life."

To enter Canada costs a Chinaman \$500. Last year thirteen hundred and eighty paid the tax, the treasury of the country receiving from them \$699,000. "The Missionary Witness" makes the statement that combined contributions of the Christians of this country for the evangelization of heathen nations were only about half as much as the Chinese paid for the privilege of living in Canada. It asks, is it not amazing that in prosperous Canada 1,390 men cannot be secured who will voluntarily tax themselves to send the Gospel to heathen lands as much as 1,380 heathens are taxed by us to land on our shores? The love of Christ constraineth us! How much!

The Rev. Dr. A. A. Fulton, for the past 27 years a missionary in Canton, China, in an interview with the representatives of one of the papers of Honolulu, H.I., said:

The new Chinese education is progressing rapidly, tremendous strides it is making, and the results are showing everywhere. The Chinese medical college is full to overflowing and the young men are taking up the study of medicine with alacrity. The old examination halls in Canton have been torn down and replaced by new and handsome buildings. Everywhere is improvement shown and a greater civilization. He also spoke particularly of the sanitary improvements in Canton. From the old conservative city of a million souls has sprung a new thought that inspires the inhabitants to greater things and they now maintain a street cleaning department and the city is lighted by electricity. Recently there has been a waterworks established and the inhabitants will be supplied with water piped from a cool fountain stream direct to their homes. The "bund" which has been the attraction to all tourists to China and which extends along the waterfront of the city, has been vastly improved at a cost of many thousand dollars. Work on the Canton-Hankow railway is being rapidly pushed by the Chinese and the terminus is now forty miles from Canton.

As the young man's opportunities are greater than those of age, it follows that his victories should be greater. There is no age that is released from achievement, and no time of life in which great exploits may not be performed. Bryant wrote his great poem, "Thanatopsis," at eighteen, but Goethe completed his masterpiece "Faust" at eighty. Ruskin wrote the greatest of all his works, "Modern Painters," at the age of twenty-four, but Da Vinci painted the greatest picture of all time, "The Last Supper," when he was seventy-seven. Napoleon was emperor of Europe at thirty-three, but Bismarck at eighty was the mightiest force in the politics of Europe. Coleridge wrote his immortal poem, "The Ancient Mariner," when but twenty-five years old, but Cromwell at the age of fifty-five refused the crown of England. While the great achievements of early manhood may be matched by some equally great work of age, still, as a rule, the powers of the young are more vigorous, their blood is warmer, their enthusiasm more spontaneous, their ambitions more impelling and their hopes more buoyant. And when these epoch-making years are directed in the way of righteousness there is the promise of untold blessing. When the young men are enrolled in the army of the King, and are by grace divine equipped for the campaign, the triumph of the cross is sure.

Fire-smitten Fernie passed an ordinance cancelling all liquor licenses and prohibiting the importation of intoxicants. Without such an ordinance order could not have been preserved. St. John did the same thing after the great fire. On this the Maritime Baptist remarks: "If prohibition of the drinkshop is good for a town after a fire, or on an election day, it ought to be equally good at all other times."

In reply to the statement, made by some of the French papers of the Province of Quebec, that the Rev. Mr. Greville had died a Roman Catholic, the Rev. A. J. Therrien, pastor of the French Baptist Church, Mance street, writes to the "Witness" that he was with him until within six hours of his death, and that he was then unable to speak. Up to that time he had reaffirmed that he died in the evangelical faith.

In the recently elected Japanese House of Representatives there are fourteen Christians—twice as many as ever before had seats in that body. Though not a large number, in a House of 380 members, it is encouraging because it shows a gain of Christian influence, and a larger percentage of Christians among the representatives than in the population of the country. It is said, too, that among the Christian representatives are some of the most active Christian workers in Japan.

With an excellent beginning in this its first session, Westminster Hall, the new college at the Coast, says West-land, is already looking forward to its arrangements for next year. The farthest-west college is fortunate in having good drawing-powers, with situation and natural advantages greatly in its favor. Two men of prominence have already agreed to come to Vancouver next year: Rev. Dr. Denney of Glasgow, who will give the full course in the New Testament, and Prof. George Adam Smith, who will give a series of lectures in the Old Testament. Besides these two strong men from across the water, Prof. A. R. Gordon, of Montreal, is to be present during the summer session, and Principal MacKay has hopes of securing one or two other men of note and ability. The second year's faculty thus promises to be one of particular strength. It is expected that a summer school for ministers will be held next year during the stay of Profs. Denney and Smith, with special rates from all parts of Canada.

The internal conditions in Persia are still unsettled. The new representative institutions, foreign as they are to all the political habits and traditions of an Oriental people, are giving the Shah much trouble and not perceptibly benefitting the country. As to Persia's foreign relations, the difficulties with Russia are practically ended, but the Turkish boundary dispute promises further trouble. Russia has exacted an indemnity for the raids of Persia border tribes in Russian territory, and the Russian force under General Svanaki, which recently invaded Persia in punishment for the depredations of the Persian bandits, is now withdrawing from the Persian frontier to Belesuar. The advance of Turkish troops against Urumiah, in Persian Armenia, still continues. The boundary dispute and the consequent question of sovereignty of certain districts are more than acute. The invaders have occupied an important strategic point near Salmas, north of Urumiah, and communication between Tabriz and Urumiah is cut off.