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Note and Comment.

Sir Edwin Arnold, though totally blind, still does some literary work. He said recently, "My condition would be a bad one without patience and resignation. I never despair, and thank heaven for my unimpaired mental powers."

Baba, which means "father," Premchand Bharati, a propagandist of an Indian faith based on the Vedas, has come to this country to make converts. He will work principally in New York city. He speaks in very hopeful terms, as reported in the secular papers.

In the good old meaning of the word, we hope that Christmas may be "merry" for all our readers. It means not boisterous nor giddy, but glad and happy. To be merry-hearted is to be glad and sweet of soul, and such we should all strive to be and to help others to be.

The Editor of the "New York Observer," says:—"The Presbyterian of Olympia, State of Washington, maintains a pastor at large. We know a good many pastors who might be set at large on the community, authorized to do good to whomsoever they could, with profit to all concerned."

It is stated that Mr. Frick is to give Pittsburg a university that will out rival the Carnegie technical school, and that he has secured a site opposite that of the great iron-master, who was once his partner, but is now his enemy. If this Frick(tion between millionaires goes on, says the Endeavor Herald, we shall not know what to do with all our schools.

Corsica, the intolerant, has felt the influence of the Protestant movement in France. The Protestant Church at Aulene has made application to the Minister of the Interior to be recognized as the parish church, and to be given the allowance formerly given to the Catholic priest. The petition is on the ground that the village has adopted the Reformed faith. Evangelical worship is conducted in a number of villages, and the movement is spreading.

"Make your life more simple even if you have to make it less fashionable. The world wants you to make it less fashionable. The world wants to see a real difference between Christians and other people, in their attitude toward money. A Christian can use money as a servant, but if he makes it the ruler of his life, his Christianity is a lie." This sane message Dr. Van Dyke gave his Brick Church people when he left for Princeton to take a chair in English literature. It is another way of emphasizing plain living and high thinking, says the Standard.

Some of the effects of the new Russian railway across Siberia are thus summarized: The opening was followed by a rush of settlers into Siberia, many of them being farmers. New methods of farming are introduced among the peasantry. Immense quantities of butter are being made. The mining industries have all been developed. The railroad has created a coal industry. Several great coal fields are being developed.

Furnaces of the locomotives are fed to-day with Siberian coal. The rudimentary workshops of old times are shutting up; they cannot compete with European manufacturers. Methods of mining have been changed. The old steamboats on the rivers will not do; new ones are being made. In 1900 the expenses of the railroad exceeded the receipts by about three million rubles, (about \$1,500,000.), but the government does not call this a loss, because the receipts from government roads in Russia have been increased several million rubles in carrying freight from and to the trans-Siberian road.

Never in any year of its history, remarks the Herald and Presbyter, has our Presbyterian Church made the preparation and put forth the united effort it is now doing in the field of evangelistic effort. The spirit of longing for revival and for conversions seems to be filling the hearts of pastors and people as scarcely ever before. The prayers for souls is in many hearts like that of John Knox: "Give me Scotland or I die." It is not too much to expect that this is to be a year of "the right hand of the Almighty."

John Alex. Dowie claims that he holds \$23,000,000 in his own right, and yet he keeps appealing to his followers for more. A recent appeal said: "Any one having \$5 to loan will please communicate with John Alexander Dowie, general overseer of the Christian Catholic Church. The 'five' will be gladly received, and its owner will be promised 6 per cent interest on his investment." The appeal for five dollar loans is rather remarkable from the second "Elijah" who gathers to himself the tithes of all his dupes. It is astonishing how much men put up with when once they have made up their minds to be deceived.

Dr. Payson sent a message to the young men who were studying for the ministry in one of the colleges, as follows: "What if God should place in your hand a diamond, and tell you to inscribe on it a sentence which should be read at the last day, and shown there as an index of your thoughts and feelings. What care and caution would you exercise in the selection? Now, this is what God has done. He has placed before you immortal minds, more imperishable than the diamond, on which you are about to inscribe, every day and every hour, by your instructions, by your spirit, or by your example, something which will remain, and be exhibited for or against you at the judgment day."

"A few years ago, when liquid air was new, we were told it would revolutionize the power problem," says Amateur Mechanics. "A passenger train was to run from New York to San Francisco on a barbed wire, and a small express wagon would haul enough in one load to take the largest steamer across the Atlantic. Now it is unknown outside of laboratories, and in fact only four universities in the country are equipped to make it. Careful tests last week at Cornell University demonstrated the fact that a one-horse power engine working continuously for one hour could produce only enough liquid air, when converted into power, to run a one-horse power engine one

minute."

"It has generally been conceded," says The Sanitary Inspector (August), "that there is quite an element of danger in the consumption of raw salad plants which have been grown upon soil that is possibly infected with disease germs which may be present as the result of the application of stable manure to the soil. All such salad plants should be carefully washed with an abundance of water. A writer in *Policlinico*, an Italian journal, concludes as the result of his experiments that such salad plants may be effectually sterilized, so far as disease germs are concerned, by immersing them a half an hour in a three-per-cent. solution of tartaric acid.

"Fogs," says the *Revue Scientifique*, "do not seem to lessen in frequency or intensity in London, and so, to aid the ordinary gas and electric lamps, which are insufficient in foggy weather, there are now kept in reserve in Westminster special lamps that are distributed in frequented streets when they are needed. They consist essentially of a large round reservoir that may contain about twenty five gallons of gasoline, in which the air is compressed. Thus are produced carburetted vapors that rise in a hollow stem above the reservoir and reach a burner, situated ten or fifteen feet above the ground. This burner gives a flame twenty to twenty-five inches high with an intensity of 1,000 candle power."

After tests covering two years, a physician of New York City has announced a new method for treating tumors. It is by the use of boiling water. He uses a syringe with a cylinder and adjustable piston, with needles varying in size. Using the ordinary aseptic precautions, water is taken directly from a cauldron and injected into the substance of the tumor. The water must be at a temperature of from 190 to 212 degrees Fahrenheit, or even higher. The water, he says, should be hot enough to coagulate the blood and the albuminoids of the tissues immediately, but it should not be forced in so extremely hot and under such pressure as to scald and produce a necrosis of the skin. During the treatment, the patient is put under the influence of narcotics.

Pope Leo's encyclical, says the Interior, appointing a commission "to devote their entire energy to insure that the divine words may receive the explanation demanded of them by the times," does the utmost possible to make the errors of the commission utterly sterile by adding this qualifying instruction: "That must be held to be the true sense of Holy Scripture which has been and is being held by the holy mother church." There is not a minister anywhere in Protestantism who would not agree that that sentence contains the gist of the reason why the Catholic church is so nearly a failure as a witness to living, saving Christian truth. And yet we have known even Presbyterian ministers who whenever theological professors were appointed to do for our church what this commission is to do for Catholicism, have insisted that they must put on just such clamps as the pope has commanded these scholars of his to wear.