

The Colonist

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CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS.

The believers in Christian Science are criticised very severely by some of the influential newspapers of the East. Diphtheria has lately been raging in Indianapolis. Many have died of it, and the authorities of the city did what they could to arrest the progress of the disease. To do this it was necessary to isolate those who were afflicted with it. But the "Christian Scientists" refused to comply with the civic regulations regarding the disease. They, in the first place, did not believe in having the patients with whom they were connected subjected to medical treatment, and they insisted on visiting the sick, and laughed at the precautions taken to prevent the spread of the disease. It can be easily understood that a band of Christian Scientists going from house to house for the purpose of ministering to diphtheria patients would be the most effective means for propagating the disease that could be devised. Each of its members would carry the contagion wherever he or she went, and there would be few places in which there was not some one—man, woman or child—in such a condition as readily to receive the poison thus disseminated. It would be too late to tell the person to whom the contagion was imparted from the clothes of the scientist missionary that the disease was only a creation of his imagination, that his sore throat had really no existence, and that he was in good health and to get someone who had faith to pray for him and the distressing symptoms would disappear. To most grown-up people and to all infants the sore throat would be a terrible reality and the poison would do its work in spite of every effort of the will and all the prayers that could be uttered.

As long as a malady is mild and not contagious the community can afford to look upon the Christian Scientist as a harmless fanatic. But as soon as the disease becomes dangerous and contagious he should be looked upon as a lunatic whom the good of the community requires to be put under restraint. The person who, when diphtheria or small-pox is epidemic, persists in visiting patients afflicted with the disease, and without taking the precautions known to be effective in disinfecting himself and his clothes goes into houses where the disease has not made its appearance, is worse than an incendiary. He is voluntarily a disseminator of disease and death, and he should be treated as such. Toleration of his sad under such circumstances is nothing less than a crime. We do not wonder that the same people of Indianapolis were indignant at the Christian Scientists. We do not know what action they took, but a New York paper says: "A jail or an asylum—in the one or the other institution should any man or woman be placed who even suggests the treatment of a disease like diphtheria by the exercise of will, or called, or faith, or the silly use of a more silly imagination." This is not a whit too strong. It is dictated by true science, common sense and experience.

A QUEER ARRANGEMENT.

The change which has been made in the Iowa liquor traffic cannot be encouraging to the advocates of prohibition. The prohibition law in that state has been a failure. The best evidence of this is the arrangement that has just been made. That arrangement seems to us to be an immoral one. The Legislature refuses to acknowledge that the law has failed to produce the effect intended, that it does not prohibit. But they allow it to remain on the statute book, with all the pains and penalties attached to its violation. They have attached what we suppose may be called a rider to it to the effect that although the law forbids the sale of intoxicating drink under any circumstances, yet the citizen who pays into the state treasury \$800 may sell intoxicating drinks for the period of twelve months. Here we have a law giving citizens license to violate the law. Was there ever such a queer device? This is what the New York Times

THE CONQUEST OF MADAGASCAR.

The French are in possession of the capital of Madagascar, but have they taken the country; has their invasion been successful? It is much more difficult to hold a country like Madagascar than to go through the form of conquering it. The country is not a vast expanse of wilderness inhabited by a few savages. The climate is not favorable to the European constitution. It is, on the contrary, most unhealthy. The country, although not densely populated, has a large population, part of it high-spirited and warlike. The French can never colonize Madagascar as the British and other nations have colonized North America. The French, if they retain possession of Madagascar, will always be strangers in the land. Between them and the natives there is, and most likely always will be, a great gulf. There can be very little sympathy between them. The French may remain masters of the country, but they will never be at home in it. The great bulk of the population will continue to be Malagasy, and from all accounts they are not easily managed. A large part of the country is very difficult of access and it follows that a very considerable proportion of its population will have very little intercourse with their French conquerors. The prospect of making Madagascar a peopled and a profitable colony of France is not very bright. At this moment it appears a good deal more probable that it will be a costly and a troublesome possession, than that it will be a contented and prosperous dependency.

THE AFRICAN GOLD FELD.

The Kafir boom has surprised the world. The growth of interest in South African mines has been marvellous. Many who have been watching the extraordinary movement do not know what to make of it. Others have hastily declared that it is a gigantic bubble, and predicted that it will soon burst. They speak of those who have been so eager to invest their money in "Kafirs" as crazy. But in spite of criticism and in the face of the gloomiest predictions the boom continues. The collapse that was sure to come appears just now to be as far off as ever. It would, perhaps, be well to inquire if the Kafir movement has any solid foundation. It is hard to believe that it is the creation of the heated imagination of South African enthusiasts; that it is a stupendous fraud devised by unprincipled speculators, or that it is a financial epidemic, having its origin no one knows where and spreading no one knows how. A little inquiry will show the rational observer that there is a cause, and a substantial one, for this African gold fever. The increase in the production of gold in South Africa has been rapid; it has been recent and it has been great. It is not, therefore, surprising that a contemplation of that increase has turned many heads and those not of the lightest kind. Examination and inquiry too have made it reasonable to expect that the supply of gold will not be soon exhausted. There are in fact many indications that it will be permanent. So late as 1890 the yield of the Witwatersrand gold mines just started was less than half a million of ounces. It was soon observed that the yield increased month by month. Here is the record of the production of the mines for the last six years:

Table showing production of gold in South Africa from 1886 to 1895. Columns for Ounces, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895. Total production for 1895 is 1,318,273 ounces.

Here we see a steady and a continuous increase. The output of the mines on the 1st of January, 1890 was 35,000 ounces; the output on 1st of January, 1895 was 177,463 ounces, nearly five times as much. Is it any wonder that the mines which increased at this rate and kept on increasing became popular with investors in Great Britain and in many parts of continental Europe? If the yield of the mines just opened in Alberta, when they are once in good working order, should increase as these Witwatersrand mines have increased, would anyone be surprised if their stock should be eagerly sought after by men who had money to invest, and that it should appreciate in value thousands per cent?

AN INTERESTING CASE.

A murder trial which is going on in Quebec is attracting a good deal of attention. This is not one of the cases in which the prosecution must depend upon circumstances carefully and skillfully linked together for proof of the crime that has been committed. The murder was committed openly, in the presence of many witnesses, and the murderer was arrested red-handed. The only question to be decided is the man's sanity. The name of the accused man is Shortis. He is a young Englishman who has not been long in Canada. His family is respectable. He was some time before employed in the Valleyfield cotton mills in the capacity of clerk. While in the employment of the company he gained a knowledge of the premises and of the way in which the business was done. He knew, for instance, that at certain periods money to pay the hands was sent to the factory. He found out when it was counted and divided into small sums, and who did the work. He was, in fact, on friendly terms with the clerks.

On the evening of the first of last March, while the clerks, John Lowe, Hugh A. Wilson and John Loy, were counting and dividing the money to pay the 1,400 or 1,500 hands employed in the mill Shortis visited them. He appears to have been admitted without hesitation. While chatting with the men Shortis in an off hand manner asked Lowe to hand him a revolver which lay in a drawer beside him. This he did, first taking the precaution to draw out the cartridges. Shortis amused himself for a while cleaning and oiling the revolver and when he had put it in good order he handed it back to Lowe, who reloaded it and laying it on the table put a sheet of paper over it. Shortis picked it up again, when Lowe warned him not to fool with it and took it from him, plac-

ing it in the drawer. As Lowe was returning to the table from the safe, to which he had gone to put some of the money away, he saw Shortis take the revolver from the drawer and after deliberately taking aim, fire at Wilson. Loy immediately rushed to the telephone to call the doctor, as he said; Shortis without hesitation shot him dead. Lowe in this crisis acted with great courage. He went to the assistance of the wounded man Wilson, and while he was supporting him Shortis fired at him. Although he was wounded he managed to get under the table, and reaching out his hand secured the rest of the money on the table. He then made a rush for the safe where he found Arthur Labouet. They closed the door and were for the time safe. Shortis meeting Maxime Labouet killed him. Wilson hid himself in another part of the building, and though badly wounded escaped. Having killed two men and wounded two others Shortis gave himself up.

The question for the jury to decide is, was this man sane or not? Could a man who would go about committing a robbery in this way be in his right mind, and is he responsible for his acts? The question of the moral and legal responsibility of criminals is both interesting and important. We have not seen the evidence that has been adduced to prove that Shortis is insane. There will, no doubt, be many witnesses called. The father and the mother of the prisoner will be in court, and they very likely have before this given their testimony.

A MERCHANTS' MAGAZINE.

The most enlightened among our American neighbors are beginning to see that what the United States wants more than anything else is foreign trade. Not only does it produce food stuffs and the raw materials of manufacture in immense quantities, but it possesses manufacturing power sufficient to supply more than twice its present population. In order, therefore, to give sufficient work to all its producers of every class it needs a larger market. That market must be found outside the United States. The policy of its statesmen and men of enterprise in every department of industry is to do all in their power to promote international trade. In order to convince the politicians and the business men of the United States of the importance of extending the trade operations of their country, a magazine bearing the title "International Trade" has been issued; the first number of which is before us. It is published by Henry Glassford, New York. The prospectus directs attention to the great Republic's very small export of manufactured goods compared with that of Great Britain and Germany, and goes on to say:

International Trade has for its aim to call attention to this, the next field of American enterprise and progress; to give information about the regions and the people with whom we should do business; to summarize the many publications of this kind; and other governmental information valuable to commerce, but which often is presented in a form so diffuse or defective as to lessen its value. There are many lessons to be learned from the methods of our competitors for the world's trade. These will be gathered from the trade journals of all the world and from other sources.

Such a publication as this, if it performs the promise made in its prospectus, will contain exactly the information that Canadian merchants and manufacturers need. As it is the part of wisdom to learn from a rival it is to be hoped that Canadian business men will derive as much benefit from the publication of International Trade as will those of the United States. Canada needs every trade advantage it can obtain, and its business men require all the knowledge of foreign markets that they can glean. The October number of this magazine—which is its first number—contains a good deal of information about South Africa. This information is quite as useful to the merchants of the United States as it is to those of the United States, and we are greatly mistaken if many of them are not in a better position at this moment to make a practical use of it. International Trade is well written and well printed, and as attractive as a periodical of its kind can well be.

CONTRADICTION REPORTS.

It is very hard to tell whether the information contained in the telegrams relative to outrages in Armenia is or is not worthy of credit. Not long ago the whole civilized world was shocked at the accounts of the horrible atrocities committed by the Turks in Armenia. A short time after these accounts were published the world was told, on apparently good authority, that the greater number of these telegrams were manufactured for a purpose, and that those that were not outrageous lies were malicious exaggerations. After a little while the first accounts were repeated, with so many details and with such an appearance of truth that it seemed unreasonable not to believe that they were truthful descriptions of what had actually taken place. Now we are again told that we have been deceived, that a pack of unprincipled scoundrels have been practising upon the credulity of the people of Western Europe and North America. A recent telegram from London says:

The correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette in Constantinople sends an interview with a European delegate attached to the Legation of inquiry which has been conducting an examination at Sassoun into the alleged atrocities committed in that part of Armenia. The delegate declares that the statements of the press correspondents in regard to the atrocities, especially those of Mr. Dillon, in the Daily Telegraph of London, and his English contemporaries, are gross exaggerations. When he reports of the commission is published, he says, it will be found that the number of killed in the fighting attending the capture of the villages of Semal, Shekma, and Ghelghuzan, and in the fighting elsewhere, did not exceed from 300 to 500. There is no evidence, says the delegate, that

THE PARISH COUNCILS.

The English Parish Councils, about which so much was said and such great things predicted a year or so ago, have now been in operation some months. These Councils have not yet accomplished what the most ardent advocates of their establishment predicted, neither does it appear that they will ever be able to do a very great deal towards ameliorating the condition of the rural population of England. Yet they have been very far from committing the absurdities of which those who opposed them believed them capable. They appear to be on the whole useful and capable of doing good work in the parishes in a small way. The Parish Councils have not been able to make work for the agricultural laborer or to give him better wages than he has before their establishment, had been earning. They have done nothing towards mitigating the agricultural distress which exists in all parts of the country. Those, therefore, who expected that they would improve the economic conditions under which those connected with agriculture live have been disappointed.

JEWISH INFLUENCE.

To THE EDITOR:—The writer was one of a considerable number who attended the lecture by Miss Frank on "Heart Throbs of Israel," and was among those who were entertained by the able and interesting delivery of the speaker and benefited by the instructive character of the matter placed before them. Miss Frank impressed her audience with the fact that she had given the subject careful thought and much research, and also that her opinions were those of one who believed thoroughly in all that she uttered, and that she was truly loyal to her religion. It was cheering indeed, in these days of unbelief and infidelity, to hear a woman of her standing and the desire to please for monetary considerations or popular approbation are the principal objects of platform speakers, to listen to one who was not afraid to speak the truth as she understood it, and even though some things that she thought it right to say might prove unpalatable to her hearers.

In referring to the advance of the Semites from a primeval stage of culture and intelligence to the present position which they had exerted upon the various nations among whom they were in certain periods forced to live, I was surprised to note that no mention was made of the Jews. At a time when every nation on earth were either persecuting them or simply tolerating their presence, but not as citizens, England offered them a safe asylum, and placed them on the same social plane as her own citizens. It was in England, too, that one of the greatest of Israel's sons rose to be the first in power in the Kingdom. Unlike Mordcau, "whom the King delighted to honor," D'Israeli mounted to the heights of state by the sheer force of his transcendent ability, and his name and achievements are kept fresh in the memory of a noble and noble nation by the pretty practice instituted by the Primrose League of wearing a bunch of primrose on the anniversary of the death of the famous Lord Beaconsfield. Where else in the history of her great and peculiar people since the days of Solomon could Miss Frank have pointed with greater pride and more telling effect than that portion occupied by the name of D'Israeli? In adding to the lustre of the British name, he also gained much in the estimation of the world for his own race. BRITISHER.

A special dispatch to the Daily News from Berlin says that the Emperor's side-delegate, Lieut.-Col. Count von Moltke, handed to the Czar yesterday, at St. Petersburg, an autograph letter from Emperor William. Count von Moltke's mission has come as a complete surprise to everybody. Although the contents of the letter are unknown, the sending of it is regarded as an act of great political importance.

THE "KAFFIR" BOOM.

The London Spectator takes a very sensible view of the South African boom. That paper does not believe it to be a mere bubble which must soon burst, leaving nothing behind it which is of any value. On the contrary, it says:

There is a solid basis of industry and prosperity behind this speculative upheaval, and that the development of the Rand Goldfield into the leading gold producing centre of the world came at a very opportune moment to restore the credit of financiers who were, comparatively speaking, starving amid the general stagnation, and to assist, directly and indirectly, in that revival of trade which has so long been kept back by the general state of confusion. English investors have had some heavy losses to write off since 1890, and were fully entitled, according to the theory of averages, to a slice of compensating good fortune. Now they have got it at last, and wealth has been showered upon them freely if only they have had the wit to seize their opportunity, and if they are careful to gather their harvest before it is too late. Indirectly, the effects of such a turn of Fortune's wheel are almost incalculable. To mention only one obvious example of their working, it is not too much to say that the South African boom has saved a large proportion of the members of the Stock Exchange from ruin. A year ago, it was said that one half of the members were living on the charity of the other half. Now this large community of more than two thousand members, with an army of about three times as many clerks, have more work to do than they can cope with, and are making money as fast as they can book their bargains. And this fact has a far-reaching effect on the prices in other departments than the South African; for the Stock Exchange, though mainly only a clearing-house that exists to expedite the purchase and sale of securities by the outside public, is, as a matter of fact, deeply interested in the commodities in which it deals, and when the "House" is prosperous, the tone of markets is appreciably influenced all round.

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