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Note and Comment.

About a year ago the Y. M. C. A. was organized at Treadwell, Alaska. Since then the saloons and gambling rooms have lost their patronage largely and the jail has comparatively few occupants.

In a village near Hoism, Shan si, China, the village "elder" is a Christian. He has got the people unanimously to consent to his tearing down two heathen temples in order to build a Christian church out of the materials.

In 1899 the religious organizations known as "The Gideons" began with three members. It now has more than 5,000. It is composed of commercial travelers who make use of every opportunity to say a good word for Christ and to lead men to an acceptance of him.

The Presbyterian Standard states the interesting fact that a Waldensian colony of 6,000 has settled upon the Platte River, in South America, in both Uruguay and Argentine. They have already established a Christian college there for their children. Presbyterianism and education go hand in hand, even when the kind of Presbyterianism is ramed Waldensianism.

Lord Cromer, the British Commissioner in Egypt, in a recent journey up the Nile, noticed a great contrast between the attitude of the natives in British territory and that of those seen in the Congo Free State. In the first case the people swarmed the banks, full of good-will, in the other they fled, full of terror. The experience was a curious confirmation of brutality against Congo officials.

The Rev. Dr. Pentecost, lately returned from the East, asserts as the result of his personal observations on mission fields, that Christianity is making more progress in Korea than in any heathen country of the world. No people are more easily reached by the Gospel preacher than the Koreans. They readily respond to the preached Word. The testimony of an English missionary is, "I can get thousands to hear the Gospel preached. Every time I open my church—which is one of the largest in Korea—I can get from 700 to 1,500 people to attend." There is great instrument of evangelization is preaching.

It is a Roman Catholic writer, in the *Catholic Times*, who asks and answers questions as follows: "Which are the leading powers of the world? The non-Catholic states of Great Britain, the United States, Germany, Russia. What a fall has been the fall of Spain! How France collapsed before Germany! Does the condition of Catholicism in Italy please any Catholic? Look at the Catholic nations of South America. How many of them are a credit to civilization?" There are, probably, many members of the Roman Church who are thickly deep of the facts which this one so bluntly expresses.

Pastor Lormann, chairman of the society of Scientific Research in Anatolia, during a recent journey in Northern Sera, acquired a coin of pure silver in excellent preservation. Examination revealed a perfect Aramean inscription of Panammu Bar Rerub, King of Schamol, who reigned 800 years before Christ. It is the oldest known coin in the world. Hitherto in the Lydians have been regarded as inventors of money, but this find shows that the Semitic Arameans used coins two centuries before the Lydians, as evinced by the latter's oldest coin.

This is said to have been the way in which Lord Kelvin found the mirror galvanometer. He was puzzling over the difficulty of perfecting the ordinary telegraphic apparatus used on overhead wires, which was not suited for the varying current passing along wires. The problem was how to invent a means of interpreting clearly and easily all the delicate fluctuations. One day Lord Kelvin's eyeglass fell off and swung in front of the magnet, reflecting its movements, and instantly the idea of the mirror suggested itself.

Justice Brewer of the United States Supreme Court is reported as having said a few days ago concerning Chinese exclusion:

"I think that the time will come when the people of the United States will look back to the barbarous laws excluding the Chinese as citizens as Massachusetts look back to the hanging of the witches. America is the great composite photographer of nations, with a duty to take all the various races of the earth, with all the various elements of these nations, and put them on the canvas to make one picture, one race."

What is known as the "Los von Rom" movement in Bohemia and other parts of Austria is making rapid progress. A report recently made in England by the secretary of a Protestant society working in those regions, sums up the results of June, 1903. He says that 22,766 former Romanists have joined the Lutheran Church; 2,276 the reformed Church; 9,393 the Old Catholics, and 4,000 others have not as yet affiliated themselves with any Christian communion. Protestant services are regularly held in 134 towns and villages for the first time since the arrest of the Reformation. There have been erected fifty-eight new Protestant places of worship. In all Bohemia before this movements began, there were but eighteen Protestant congregations.

Much is said about the impossibility of making men sober by law, and of the impropriety of attempting it. This kind of argument is supposed to have much force. A temperance journal deals with it in the following fashion: "But we submit that it is exactly the wrong way of putting this case. It is not a question of making men sober by law, but of making them drunkards by law; and that is a very different proposition. Men are sober, they are born sober; except those who inherit a taste for strong drink from drunken parents, they all incline to temperance. It takes the tempter and the dramshop to make them drunkards. Without the dramshop there would be few drunkards.

It is the drunkard maker. When it is established by law, then it is the making of people drunkards by law that is to be considered and not the making of men sober by law."

The United Presbyterian reports an instructive victory for defence of the Christian Sabbath won through efforts of Dr. Wilbur Crafts. He saw the announcement that companies of the Nebraska State Militia would give sham fights on two successive Sabbaths in a park near the state line. It was too late to stop the first fight, but he appealed to the state to prevent a second violation of the spirit, if not the letter also, of the Sabbath law by companies organized to defend the laws. He prompted local business men and pastors to support his appeal, but before any of these except one from the president of the pastors association reached Governor Mickey, of Nebraska, he made the following reply, which should be urged as a precedent upon the governors of every state whose militia are being used to break down the Sabbath: "I have called the attention of the Adjutant General to this matter, and he will see that no more Sabbath sham battles are given by any department of our state militia." The paper quoted says such a victory should encourage courteous protests all over the country against all forms of Sabbath desecration, many of which could be stopped by like effort. We would include Sunday church parades in the category of things should be stopped.

A writer in the *New York Observer*, speaking of the growing Sabbath desecration in the United States, the loose sentiment of many people—not excepting professing Christian people—on the question of Sabbath observance, and the growing difficulty of enforcing Sabbath laws, says: "We believe that this is due in a great measure to a change in the views and habits of religious people, clergymen as well as laymen, upon the subject. Clergymen often travel on Sunday long distances in order to preach or attend conferences, or fulfil engagements, and Christian laymen who believe in Sunday worship and religious teaching, do not hold as they once did to the absolute sanctity of the Sabbath. They have adopted a liberal tone about the fourth commandment, which they do not use respecting any other, and regard the fourth as a Jewish ordinance while holding the others binding upon all mankind. It is needless to say, that neither the Jewish nor Puritan methods of Sabbath keeping are the best examples of how the first day of the week should be spent by pious people who wish to obey God, honor the Lord's day, and make the Sabbath a delight; but the other extreme, of utter worldliness, unlimited amusement, and abstinence from labor only at convenience, is fraught with danger to morals and full of future evils. Worldliness and neglect of religion do not grow less when Sunday amusements and Sunday labors are increased; neither do gross violations of Sunday rest, and abuses of the holiday in the interest of lust and unlawful gain and boisterous revelry, cease or diminish, when larger opportunities are afforded to crowds in our great cities to spend Sunday just as they choose, with a liberty that knows no law."