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OVER LAND AND SEA.

"We do not see our readers, as the pastor sees those whom he addresses from the pulpit, but we endeavor to keep the feeling of direct address. They are unknown to us personally, but we know that they have the experiences common to all. We study life as we see it, we seek to know spiritual wants as they exist in the lives immediately about us, assured that the wider circles are the same. We feel that, if we address one soul, there are many more who will respond to our works. We are glad to know that we are not mistaken, and that we minister to very many who are personally strangers to us, or whose immediate experience is unknown. Many letters and kindly messages to this effect have been received. Recently one who has long been shut in by affliction, and who sometimes became almost despondent because of the long continued suffering, expressed to a visitor the great comfort and strength derived from our pages. We seek to be the ministers of grace to the sick, the depressed, the tempted, and the tried, as well as to those who are strong and engaged in the active work of life, and are thankful when we know that our words accomplish their purpose." This extract from one of our exchanges is an echo of our experience from week to week and it is our hope that this year the REVIEW will be more than ever a welcome visitor to thousand of Presbyterian homes.

There are about half a million Presbyterians in the South African communities, and an effort is now being made to federate the different churches for practical work.

It is noted in a letter from Rome, published in one of the Roman Catholic journals, that the only nations of importance which have no representatives accredited to the Papal Court are Great Britain and the United States. The English-speaking people of the world, who are increasing more rapidly than any other of the great nationalities of the earth, have no business to transact with one who has no civil functions, and therefore institutes no diplomatic relations with the Vatican. The Pope now is simply the Chief Priest in an ecclesiastical organization, and diplomats who go to Rome on real business find their way to the Quirinal.

The largest Bible in the world is said (according to *Invention*) to be that of the Buddhist. It is in 325 volumes and weighs 1,625 lb. They are called the Tripitaka or the Three Baskets. They were originally written in Pali, a vernacular of Sanscrit. The King of Siam presented a copy in 19 volumes to the University of Oxford. It is written in the Pali or vulgar tongue supposed to have been spoken by Buddha himself about 500 B. C. For centuries it was preserved by oral tradition. Under King Vattagamani it was reduced for the first time to writing in 876 B. C. Besides this Pali Canon there is another in Sanscrit. There are books in the Sanscrit Canon which are not to be found in the Pali Canon and *vice versa*. according to the tradition the original Canon consisted of 84,000 books, 82,000 being ascribed to Buddha and 2,000 to his disciples. A book, however, seems to have meant no more than a treatise or

topic. According to the Rev. R. Spense Hardy, the Pali Canon consists of 275,250 stanzas, and its commentary of 361,550 stanzas, each stanzas reckoned at 32 syllables. This would give us 8,802,000 syllables for the text, and 11,569,600 syllables for the commentary. Professor Rhys Davis arrives at much smaller sums or 1,752,800 words, which, translated into English, would mean about 3,505,600 words. This would make the Buddhist Bible nearly five times as large as our own.

Professor Roberts, St. Andrews, has sent a document to the Scottish Universities Commissioners, in which he deplores "the unseemly and pernicious strife" which has existed between the University of St. Andrews and University College, Dundee, and suggests that something should be done to remove these difficulties. He proposes that the commissioners should arrange terms upon which both universities should unite, or that a bill should be introduced into Parliament with that view. By union only, the professor says, can there be formed a true organic connection, implying a common life and a sympathetic feeling between the one place and the other.

This year the potato celebrates the 30th anniversary of its introduction into England. In 1596 Sir Walter Raleigh first brought potatoes from America to England, and for some time they were a luxury of the rich alone, costing two shillings per pound.

The nationality of the British Army is thus classified: 163,000 Englishmen, 16,000 Scotsmen and 26,000 Irishmen. As regards the religious denominations, it appears that the Church of England claims 145,000, the Roman Catholic Church 37,000, the Presbyterian Church 15,000, and the Wesleyan 12,000.

According to your faith the result will be. Rev. Richard Knill was spending a vacation. He took the ten-year-old grandson of his host upon his knee and said: "This child will one day preach the gospel, and will preach it to great multitudes." That boy became Charles H. Spurgeon, the great London preacher.

On every ground it is gratifying that the objects of the military expedition to Ashantee have been obtained without a shot being fired. Coomassie was entered by the British troops on the morning of Friday, when King Prempeh surrendered to Sir Francis Scott. The King, with his chiefs and people received the British force with every evidence of respect and submission. The scene is reported to have been a deeply impressive one. Governor Maxwell, the Queen's representative, arrived at Coomassie on Saturday to take supreme control. It is to be hoped that the King and his followers will be treated with the fullest measure of consideration, and that the highest well-being of his late subjects will be generously provided for. The slave trade has received a fatal blow by the decided and prompt action of the Colonial Office, and Mr. Chamberlain is again to be congratulated upon his sound judgment and characteristic foresight.