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Note and Comment.

Since the Czar's return to St. Petersburg the Nihilists there have become unusually active. Numerous arrests and domiciliary visitations have been made by the police.

The late Lord Morris in defining to a jury the meaning of "prima facie evidence," said:—"If you saw a man coming out of a public-house wiping his mouth, that would be prima facie evidence that he had been having a drink."

A speaker at the recent Methodist Conference in London, suggested that Christian Churches should do away with raffling at bazaars, and that where such a thing took place the policeman should be called in to do his duty.

Tourists in Egypt can now take a trolley car in the main street of Cairo direct to the Pyramids. In a short time a line will be built equipped with American cars to run from the ocean front at Tiraus to the Parthenon at Athens.

General Booth, of the Salvation Army, has purchased a large mansion at Thundersley, Essex, for the reception and treatment of inebriate patients under duly qualified medical superintendence, and this will be opened during the latter part of next month.

A mission to China, on the lines of the China Inland Mission, has been formed in the United States under the leadership of Mr. Houlding, a Chinese missionary, and has been joined by the Rev. Walter S. Elliott, of the Second Presbyterian Church, New Albany.

It is announced that the attempt to reach the North Pole by means of a Russian ice-breaker has been abandoned. Though the expedition was planned with a notable admixture of foresight and liberality, it was found that the frozen sea could not be forced in such a manner.

Dawson has now direct telegraphic communication with the outside world. A line 2,200 miles long connects it with Ashcroft, and is laid over the line projected for the Collins overland route in 1865 to connect America with Europe. The first messages came through on Tuesday.

The University of Toronto has received a substantial addition to its endowment through the generosity of Professor Goldwin Smith and Mrs. Smith. The donation consists of \$10,000 to the library of the university, and is to be applied for the purposes of such of the departments as the trustees may from time to time determine.

Although the firm of Imrie, Graham & Co. is a Toronto house the name is known throughout the length and breadth, not of the Dominion only, but of the United States also. The genial John Iarrie, the head of the firm, is a poet whose verses are known far and wide, and it has been his endeavour to produce and provide the public with that which was wholesome and true.

Mr. T. V. Powderly, United States Commissioner-General of Immigration, says:—"The danger of making the United States an asylum for vagabonds is increasing every year. The right of free speech is one thing, but the licence that aliens take here to advocate murder, the destruction of property, riot, and arson, is not liberty. Such fiends should be deported."

There are thirty-three churches in the Northern Presbyterian Church which have more than 1,000 members, and of these five have over 2,000. These five are Bethany, Philadelphia, Mr. Patterson, 2,831; Fifth Avenue, New York, Dr. Purves, 2,682; Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, Dr. Gregg, 2,311; Central, Rochester, Dr. Stebbins, 2,204; and Brick, Rochester, Dr. Taylor, 2,165.

The union of the six different Presbyterian Churches of Australia, which has been so long in the air, has now become an accomplished fact. The event was heralded in with the greatest enthusiasm, and consummated with the acclamations and praises of some five thousand worshippers. Delegates from the home Churches got a most cordial reception, and spoke with much wisdom, force, and eloquence.

Ontario won all the medals at the Pan-American Exhibition, offered by the American Pomological Society for the best exhibit of fruits, open to all America. Forty entries were made, and the display was considered first-class. Ontario also took sixty per cent. of the prizes for cattle. Many visitors expressed their astonishment at the exhibit of their northern neighbors, whose principal products they had estimated as saw logs, ice and snow.

A St. Petersburg telegram states that just before Count Tolstoy left his residence at Yasnai, Poliana, for the Crimea, where he will spend the autumn, the pupils of a young ladies' school came, headed by their mistress, to bid farewell to the illustrious writer, and offer him some flowers. Some young people of the district also took part in this demonstration of sympathy. They were subsequently arrested by the police, and the schoolmistress was dismissed from her post.

"Nearer, my God, to Thee," murmured by the dying lips of President McKinley, recalls the fact, says a correspondent, that this well known and beautiful religious lyric is also the favorite hymn of King Edward. Five or six years ago his Majesty—then Prince of Wales—wrote, through his private secretary, to the compiler of a collection of sacred verses—"Among serious hymns there is none more touching, nor one that goes more truly to the heart than 'Nearer, my God, to Thee.'"

It is well known that wasps do much injury to fruit, and complaints have been numerous this season from many quarters in this country; but it appears that the possible injury to fruit by bees has been the subject of an exhaustive investigation by the California experiment stations. The conclusions arrived at are that although the mouth parts of bees are so constructed that

they might be used for both eating and injuring fruit, all the evidence obtainable points to the fact that it is very seldom that any injury is done. In this country the bee has rarely been accused of doing any injury to fruit, but in the fruit-growing districts premiums are offered for the destruction of wasps' nests.

The Eiffel Tower of Paris has proved of immense value as a meteorological station. The extreme height of its topmost platform above the surrounding country has enabled some valuable data to be obtained regarding the wind velocity and atmospheric temperature at that altitude. A complete record of observations ever since the opening of the tower, in 1889, has been made. The meteorological instruments are situated on the uppermost platform, and are connected electrically with a station below. Hourly records are by this means obtained.

How erratic and how destructive lightning may often be was brought home to the cottagers who live in the vicinity of Saratoga, says the Scientific American, in a way they will not readily forget. During a recent storm a dwelling was struck with effects that are vividly told by the photographs herewith reproduced. The lightning first struck the chimney, passed down into a bed chamber, wrecked the bed and turned it over, twisted a picture completely around so that it faced the wall, and finally broke through the side of the house, leaving a large gap. Fortunately the bed was unoccupied during the night of the storm.

According to Lloyds' Register for 1900 Great Britain still maintains the lead by a considerable majority in the world's mercantile marine. There are 7,930 ships carrying the British flag, while the nearest competitor is Germany, with 1,209 ships. In sailing vessels that country has the lead, with 2,130, as compared with 1,894 of Great Britain, though the aggregate tonnage of the latter exceeds that of that country, neither does the total for Britain include 1,014 vessels belonging to her colonies. During the year the number of vessels owned in the United Kingdom increased by 3,250,000 tons.

The following information relative to the discovery of petroleum in New Brunswick was transmitted by Commercial Agent Beutelspacher, of Moncton, under date of August 15, 1901:—"For some years past different parties have been prospecting for petroleum in this province. Very little success attended their efforts, however, until the present year, when a company operating at Memramcook, about 14 miles distant from Moncton, struck a well which it is thought will yield in paying quantities. It is producing from eight to ten barrels of oil per day. There is also a good flow of gas. The 0.860 specific gravity oil has been subjected to fractional distillation, according to the Engler method, and was found to yield a very high percentage of good burning oil. The company has placed three more boring rigs in the field, and is extending its operations rapidly."