

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The population of London increases by 70,000 annually.

Portsmouth is the largest and leading naval port in Britain.

Rev. Dr. Johnson, of Montreal, has been preaching in Harelybone Church, London.

Famine is meantime raging in the south of Spain, and many are dying daily for want of food.

The elephant seldom sleeps more than four or five hours a day, in spite of his capacity for hard work.

Within a little more than a generation Japan's population has increased from 35,000,000 to 50,000,000.

Mr. J. M. Barrie is said to be contemplating giving up play-writing in order to devote himself exclusively to novels.

Arrangements are made to proceed at once with the erection of the Hector MacDonald memorial at Dingwall.

Stoneyburn, a village near Lanthgow, has now residents of 400 Poles, and the aliens outnumber the British residents by 20.

The resignation of Lord Curzon gives pleasure to the friends of Lord Kitchener in India, where the prestige of the latter has greatly increased.

Since the first of July Korea has had only Japanese postage stamps. A special stamp has been issued to commemorate the postal union of the two countries.

It is stated on the authority of a post office man that many of the 26 1/2 millions of undelivered letters during the year were posted without even address on the envelope.

The death is announced of Rev. Newton B. Young, rector of Tibbrook, Huntingdonshire, in his 98th year. He was probably the oldest beneficed clergyman in England.

The total number of Syrians in New York is about 10,000, one-half of whom are "Maronites," or Roman Catholics, about 3,000 Orthodox Greeks and about 2,000 Greek Catholics or Protestants.

A few days ago a poor Irishman who applied for a license to sell ardent spirits, being questioned by the Board of Excise as to his moral fitness for the trust, replied, "Ah, sure, it is not much of a character that a man needs to sell rum!"

The entire population of Aberdeen is 157,505.

Rev. George Milligan, D.D., LL.D., Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, has been staying in Troon.

There is living in Abbotsford Place a venerable couple, who are both 83 years of age, and have been married for 67 years.

On the 15th inst., the anniversary of his birth, floral emblems were placed on Sir Walter Scott's monument.

Lord Inverclyde presided at the J. P. Court on the 7th inst. It is believed to be the first time the Glasgow J. P. Court has been presided over by a Peer of the Realm.

Why should Glasgow be behind other towns in Scotland, viz., Aberdeen, Ayr, Dryburgh, Lanark, Polmont, and Stirling, in the matter of a Wallace statue? The question is put by a letter writer to the newspapers.

This has been an ideal season for pearl fishing in the south of Scotland, owing to the rivers and streams being so small.

Sefton Park Church, Liverpool, was closed for two Sundays for cleaning, and re-opened on Aug. 20th by the Rev. Dr. John Watson, who has agreed to remain in charge until the end of October. The difficulty of finding a suitable successor to "Ian MacLaren" has proved even greater than was anticipated, and is causing the office-bearers considerable anxiety.

The Salvation Army having heard that wives are greatly in demand in Canada, contemplate starting a bureau for sending out English women to the Northwest.

London papers generally favor the suggested legislative union of Canada with the West Indies.

SPARKS FROM OTHER ANVILS.

Lutheran Observer: What is needed for worldly success is needed also for worthy attainment in the Christian life. The pursuit of it must be marked by singleness of aim. We cannot serve God and mammon. One or the other must be the object of our deliberate choice. God refuses to accept a divided homage, nor can a partial devotion win any larger measure of success in religion than in business.

Michigan Presbyterian: A description of nature should above all things be natural, not artistic. The artistic eye sees what the uncultivated eye cannot see, but it often misses that intimate fellowship with nature which only the soul in love with nature ever experiences; but when a man can both see and feel how beautiful nature is just as it came from God's hand; and then adds to this experience the rare gift of telling in sympathetic language what he has seen and felt, we welcome him as a true seer and genial friend. Such men are scarce.

The Standard: A true vacation does not demand that one should go any particular distance in any direction. God's world is big and diverse and there may be as many quiet, restful places a mile away, as twenty, fifty or five hundred miles distant. It is quite probable that somewhere near our dwelling place, even in the city, or the near suburb, lie little nooks and outlooks or quiet spots of beauty, where we might find as sweet surcease from weariness as though we journeyed many miles.

Canadian Baptist: In the work of sermon-making, in the art of making personal application of the Gospel, in the delicate matter of his personal relations with society, there is an immense field with the outlines of which at least, the minister ought to be acquainted at the outset of his ministerial career, and in the examination of which he needs the guidance of some man of wide experience, sane judgment, fervent piety, blameless life and spiritual power. What the study of technique is to the pianist, the study of practical theology is to the Christian minister.

New York Observer: Honey comes from many different flowers and plants, such as white and red clover, sunflower, buckwheat, fruit blossoms, dandelion and golden rod. Strange to say, it is even obtained from the plosom of the plebian turnip, and from the thorny and unpromising cacti. This fact ought to teach that happiness in this life is to be obtained from a great variety of healthful pursuits and humble objects, and that the sweets of existence are sometimes to be found in connection with very prosaic environments or to be extracted from very briery, unpropitious circumstances.

Herald and Presbyter: Those who have been baptized in infancy should feel under great obligations to God for having graciously placed them in circumstances so spiritually favorable, and should be prompt to take upon themselves the vows which were taken for them in infancy by their Christian parents. We believe this to be a most effectual means of grace, and feel assured that the great mass of those baptized in infancy, if they are properly trained, will be led to accept for themselves the saving grace and blessed service of Jesus Christ.

BOOK REVIEWS

In the preliminary announcement of the 1905 publications of the Fleming H. Revell Co., of New York, occurs the following reference to the work of a Galt author, in which universal and genuine interest centers, not merely locally, but throughout Canada wherever the gifted clergyman is known.

Knowles, R. E. St. Cuthbert's. 12mo, cloth, 1.50. A novel that does for life in a Canada parish what Ian MacLaren did for his Scotch church folk. Humor is so mingled with pathos that one feels it is all true, while hard common sense and the spirit of the poet and seer combine on the same page with indescribable effectiveness. It has all the earmarks of a book that will become a classic.

Silas K. Hocking, the novelist, says: "I am of the opinion that the gospel of life assurance should be preached much more frequently than it is. For my own part I take every opportunity of urging it, not simply as a matter of policy, but as a Christian duty. Every man, I take it, should be, as far as possible, his own providence; and it is not faith but presumption to expect the Almighty will provide for his family when he might have provided for them himself. If men would carry out the injunction, 'Be not over anxious about to-morrow,' let them assure their lives."

The Sermon.—Preaching in the church of a neighboring parish one Sunday was a Dumfriesshire minister, a man of decided ability, but one who did not always spend sufficient time in the preparation of his sermons. The following week the wife of the minister's man spoke of the sermon to her own minister in the following terms: "It was a good sermon in a way; there were lots o' guid things in't, but I tell ye, sir, there was nae sort o' order in't; a' things were mixed together—it was just like a pawnshop!"

The equivocalty of many of the names of places in Scotland gave occasion to a very amusing saying regarding a clergyman. "He was born in the parish of Dull, brought up at the school of Dunse, and finally settled as minister in the parish of Drone!"

"Where are ye gaun sae early this morning, Donald?" "Ye ken fine, Sandy, I'm a justice o' the peace, the King's misnomer. Weel, it's my turn the day to sit on the Bench and disturb Justice. Ay, Sandy, and I'll dae that with fear and favor to any man!"

The United Presbyterian Church is facing a new form of the ever recurring "woman question." The last General Assembly of the denomination directed the presbyteries at their fall meetings to vote on this overture: "Shall female members of the church be eligible to the office of deacon?" In 1877 the same question was disposed of by the General Assembly on its own judgment without a referendum. At that time the governing body of the denomination held that women could not be ordained as deacons, but that they might be "organized" as "assistants to the deacons"—and, presumably, might be allowed to do the work. After the lapse of a quarter of a century, one of the presbyteries raised the question anew, and mustered sufficient influence to prevent a summary reply by a resolution simply harking back to the old deliverance. Even if the overture carries in the presbyteries, however, it is not to become thereby operative. The answers pro and con are to be referred to the committee which is now engaged in the revision of the Book of Government, and that committee is to use its own judgment about incorporating the change into its report.