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DUTY.

A great preacher once said any duty left unperformed jarred the whole moral universe. It sounds at first an extreme statement, but does not appear so extreme when one thinks it over. See how the failure of one person in a large staff throws things out of gear! Take railroad system. The General Manager is a big man, with big responsibilities and big pay. For him to neglect his duties may mean loss of business to the road and of dividends to stockholders. But the humblest switchman on the road has only to neglect his duty to be the cause of disarrangement, wreck, and death; so that, rightly considered, the performance of duty by the switchman is just as important as the performance of duty by the general manager.

Take the cook in a lumber shanty. Suppose he gets drunk instead of leaving dinner prepared for the men as they come in at noon from their work. The immediate consequences may be discontent, ill-feeling, angry words, perhaps blows before all is through, possibly a fatality; and all this chain of evil consequences because of one employee's neglect of his duty.

These consequences, it will be observed, are not physical, but moral; and who would be bold enough to say to what indirect and remote results they may lead!

So the preacher may have been right in a deep sense, in saying that any duty left unperformed jarred the whole moral universe.

"It is far more difficult to get a principal for a ladies' college than for a theological college," said Dr. Armstrong, in presenting to the Assembly the report of the Presbyterian Ladies' College, Ottawa. In this case the difficulty is solved by the appointment of Mrs. J. Grant Needham, "a lady of well known Christian activity, whose executive ability, high attainments and genial temperament are a guarantee of success. Mrs. Needham comes with testimonials of the highest order."

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN ARBITRATION REPLACING WAR.

The "Outlook," of New York, sympathetically summarizes the important and interesting meeting in favor of International Arbitration held recently at Lake Mohonk, N.Y. This is an annual Conference. At first sight it looks like prodigality of faith to go on year after year talking against war, and particularly so this year, when one of the most sanguinary wars on record is in full progress. But after all, the world is ruled by ideas and ideals, and we make bold to say the world is nearer the practical abolition of war than most think. Moralists have long declared war not the most moral method of settling differences; and now the business interests of the world are properly stigmatizing war as unbusiness-like. At the Conference one of the most remarkable papers was the history of the "Year's Progress in Arbitration," read by Dr. Trueblood. The Venezuela case; in which Venezuela, Great Britain, Germany, and Italy were directly concerned, and the United States, France, Mexico, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Sweden and Norway were scarcely less directly interested, involving claims to the amount of eight or ten millions of dollars, was submitted to the Hague Tribunal, decided by it, and the decision, though necessarily disappointing to some of the nations interested, has been accepted, if not without a murmur, at least without a suggestion of protest or a thought of resistance.

The Court has received still more signal support by arbitration treaties entered into between Great Britain and France, France and Italy, Great Britain and Italy, Great Britain and Spain, Holland and Denmark, France and Spain, and France and Holland, by which these Powers have pledged themselves, subject to certain specified limitations, to submit their disputes for the next five years to the Hague Tribunal. To these incidents connected directly with the Hague Tribunal must be added others which equally indicate the tendency of our times toward international peace: the settlement of the Alaska boundary by a Joint High Commission; an agreement between Great Britain and France by which these two nations, long enemies and still rivals, "have settled by direct diplomatie means more differences than are likely to be referred to the Hague Court in the next ten years;" the refusal of Switzerland to continue her accustomed rôle of arbitrator in a case arising between Chili and the Argentine Republic, and her reference of these two South American Republics to the Hague Tribunal, and the submission to special arbitration of some eighteen international disputes, any one of which, but for arbitration, might easily have become an occasion for war.

The world moves.

There are some thirty foreign missionary societies at work in Japan, with a force of upwards of 760 missionaries. The organized churches total 450 and a large number of outstations, with a membership of upward of 45,000.

LIGHTS AND SHADOWS IN HONAN.

The following extracts from a letter written by Rev. R. A. Mitchell gave us an inside view to Mission life in China:—

"We came in from the Coast by rail, but could not afford to bring in large quantities of baggage because of the rates. Nearly every one in the Mission has been waiting for some provisions to come with our goods, but although I am here a month, Mr. McCann has not yet secured a boat at Tientsin. Miss Robertson's principle box of goods is still at Tientsin, although she got here six months ago. Such are some of the incidents connected with living in the Interior."

"We got by rail to within seven miles of Changte on construction train, and were there met with carts. The rails are laid as far as Changte although the line is not open for regular traffic. Two days cart travel brought us to Wei Hwai, where we arrived just two months after leaving Galt. When we left a year and a half ago we were confined to very narrow quarters on the main street, and now Mr. Ross and Mr. Clark are living in these narrow quarters, but the other Missionaries have comfortable houses in the open."

The work is going on nicely at this station, not only in the country but also in the neighborhood of the city, which was practically opened by me two years ago. Nearly all my work in China has been in what is known as Wei Hwai field, and my hope was that we would there spend the rest of our lives. The Presbytery, however, has decided that we should be connected in the future with the Wei Ch'ing field."

"Whilst at Wei Hwai the new Missionaries underwent satisfactory examinations, some of them having done exceedingly well."

Dr. Menzies and I started down here ten days ago. For over six months there had not been a shower of rain, and the people were very anxious about their crops. We were delayed when about to start by 36 hours of rain, and now it has been raining almost continuously for nine days, and farmers are beginning to feel alarmed."

"We came down here about fifty miles of the way on the Peking Syndicate railway, and from there took carts. The railroad has not yet been handed over to the Syndicate by the contractors, but the first eighty miles will be handed over on June 1st, after which there will be probably large charges for passage. The thanks of the Mission are due to the railway construction authorities for all kindnesses shown to our Mission. Ever since the line was laid they have freely given passage to all members of our Mission. They have also freely given professional advice to Dr. Menzies in building. They have also felt free to ask help from the mission, medical and otherwise, when it was given. Lately when we wanted to move lumber and other material down here, they freely gave us the use of seven cars to the end of the line. Had this been carted it would have cost about \$400.00."