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## The Church Evangelist.

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### PASSING EVENTS.

#### THE FIELD IS THE WORLD.

Bishop Tucker has written to "The Times" expressing the opinion that a more disappointing document has rarely, if ever, been sent out of the Foreign Office than that lately issued on the subject of slavery in Zanzibar and Pemba. The proposal of the Government only gives limited freedom to male slaves and practically binds the women in closer and more cruel fetters. Should a woman demand her liberty, it will be refused should she be claimed by her Mohammedan master as a concubine; and the male slaves are to be "free" and yet compelled to work for their masters. Moreover only one-half of the Sultanate is dealt with, Mombasa and all the territories of the Sultan on the mainland within the ten mile limit are to be excluded.

Object lessons in the art of empire-building are always useful to a nation perpetually solving all kinds of political problems in different parts of the world. Much can be learnt from what has taken place in Corea. There Japan speedily asserted her ascendancy in so far as it depended upon the elimination of rivals. The Chinese were driven out and Japan there upon imagined that she could take the Coreans, corrupt and debased as they were, and by sheer force of bureaucratic reform convert them into an honest and has progressive people. The experiment has been a failure; and Russia now gathers the fruits of her exertions, principally because Russia is free from the passion of reforming the world, and is all things to all men, especially when such men are in the possession of influence; her attitude is not heroic but it is business.

In a despatch to the "Times" its special correspondent throws a new light on affairs in the Transvaal. It is pointed out that the Boers interfere with the gold mining industry and the Outlanders, not from ill-will but from lack of knowledge. While the Boers are gradually becoming enlightened, President Kruger is the chief obstacle to reform, but he cannot

remain in power for many years longer. The Outlanders have only to play a waiting game and they must win; they run no risk of extermination, even the rinderpest fights for them, as it forces the Boers, half of whom live by cattle, to come to them for compensation. If the British Government but insist on the Convention being carried out strictly, refuse to allow any other State to infringe on its position as paramount power, and prevent the Transvaal extending to the coast, there is no reason why the "United States of South Africa" should not eventually assume a position in the Empire analogous to Canada.

The Federal Convention has been lately in session at Adelaide, N.S.W. for the purpose of drawing up a federal constitution for Australia. It is evident from the report of its deliberations that the United States have been taken as a model rather than Canada. While the Federation is to be under the Crown, all Australian states enjoy sovereign rights delegating to the federal government only such rights as they think desirable. The Federal legislature will consist of two houses, in the one the people of Australia will be represented, in the other States of Australia. It was as to the representation to be accorded to each State in the Upper House about which the main difficulty arose, the principal of equal representation being finally adopted.

The new Victoria bridge over the St. Lawrence at Montreal will shortly be commenced. The old historic tubular bridge, which was regarded as one of the seven wonders of the world, will be replaced by a new open steel truss structure, of the latest design. The new bridge will contain, besides a double railway track, facilities for foot passengers, vehicles and electric railway. Active work will be commenced almost immediately, and it is hoped the bridge will be completed within a year.

The disastrous effects in Spain of the rebellions in Cuba and the Philippines appear from the various British Consular reports. Commerce in the manufacturing districts is paralysed as a greater part of the products usually finds markets in Spanish colonies. The distress, however, is not so apparent on account of the great drain on the population to supply recruits for the army. In some villages none but old men, women and children are to be seen, the farms being looked after by the women and children. The burden of the war has fallen heavily on all classes, and has greatly hampered commerce by the imposition of special taxes.

The dreadful calamity which last week overtook those assisting at the charity bazaar in Paris has not only cast a gloom over the gay French capital but has called forth the sympathy of the world. Engaged as they were in a charitable object their fate is all