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NOTE AND COMMENT.

In the jubilee year of the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations it reports organizations in fifty countries and a membership of 693,736.

A conference was recently held in Pekin, China, to discuss the federation of Christian Missions in that country. At that conference, which was merely deliberative, nearly a dozen Christian organizations were represented.

The German Government has issued a notification that from January 1st, until further notice, all goods imported to Germany from any part of the British Empire, with the single exception of Canada, will be subject to the favored nation treaty.

The stand taken by the pastor of Queen street Baptist church, St. Catharines, in refusing an offer of \$5,000 a year in order to stay with his church, at a salary of \$1,200 a year, will give food for thought to those who assert that a minister's field of labor is determined by the almighty dollar.

The Federation Conference in New York commits itself to the proposition that public school children should be dismissed from their secular studies each Wednesday afternoon in order that they may attend religious instruction in their own churches. The Interior thinks this a grave error.

Dr. C. A. Clinton, of the San Francisco Board of Education, says: "Cigarette-smoking blunts the whole moral nature. It has an appalling effect upon the whole system. It stupefies the nerves. It sends boys into consumption. It gives them enlargement of the heart, and it sends them to the asylum."

There is building upon the Clyde, Scotland, a new missionary ship, costing twenty-four thousand dollars, for the Southern (U. S.) Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. When completed and teeted, the boat will be taken apart and shipped by freight to the mouth of the Congo, upon which river it is to ply between the mission stations of the Board.

The factories of St. Petersburg have been closed by the owners until after January 22nd, as a result of threats of violence in connection with the celebration of the anniversary of "Red Sunday." The situation remains serious along the Siberian Railroad and in Caucasia. Martial law has been declared along the 1,800 miles of the railroad between the Ural Mountains and Lake Baikal.

At least four elders connected with the North London (England), Presbytery as aspirants for Parliamentary honors, being candidates for constituencies in the Liberal interest. Mr. A. Rolland Rainy and Alderman Robson (Mayor of Kensington) are seeking seats north of the Tweed; whilst Mr. Robert Whyte, and Mr. C. Williamson Milne are contesting Kingston-on-Thames and South Paddington respectively.

Another union of churches is proposed. A joint committee of the Methodist Protestant, Congregational and United Brethren Churches will meet at Dayton, Ohio, February 7, 1906, to take formal action on the consolidation of the three denominations, which each separately has approved. The Congregational church has a total membership of 600,000, the United Brethren Church has 300,000 members, and the Methodist Protestant Church has 200,000 members.

It was said in Paris that the change in the British Ministry did not affect England's attitude toward France in Morocco and that she would continue to support the French claim to the right to police Morocco, which is considered the only point on which there is any likelihood of a deadlock between France and Germany. Italy has joined the Powers supporting the French programme in Morocco. There is believed to be little danger of aggression on the part of Germany.

An eminent American doctor says: "We look upon the cigarette as a leading demoralization of the last twenty-five years." According to the Philadelphia "Times," several leading physicians of that city "unanimously condemn cigarette smoking as one of the vilest and most destructive evils that ever befell the youth of our country;" declaring that "its direct tendency is a deterioration of the race." One of these physicians affirms that within a single week he had two patients who had been made blind by cigarettes.

The colored cartoons in the Sunday papers, says the "Ladies Home Journal," should be investigated by a society for the prevention of vice or a commission in lunacy rather than by people interested in art. They are not art, nor even decent caricature, but a low order of horse-play fitted to the barroom rather than the family circle. Children should not be allowed to "watch eagerly for these papers." The blame rests with the parents. They can keep the yellow journals out of their houses as readily as immoral books or immoral people, if they wish.

An amended regulation of the British postmaster-general affecting picture post cards is announced. Picture post cards sent to places abroad are no longer debarred from bearing a communication on left hand half of the address side, and, so far as the British post office is concerned now pass at the post card rate. The concession has been accepted by Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and Tunis. It is not, however, universally accepted, and no guarantee can at present be given that such cards will be allowed to pass at the post card rate in countries other than those mentioned. Cards of the kind described will not be allowed to pass as post cards in Japan, Spain or the United States.

Ministers may come and ministers may go, but the predominance of the Scotsman in high office remains as pronounced as ever. The King takes leave of one Prime Minister and sends for another, but both are Scotsmen, says the Stirling Observer, and even if the choice had fallen upon the ex-Liberal Premier it would, in this respect, have been the same. Scotland in fact is so pre-eminently represented in the present Government as in the last, and several of its members who are not of Scottish birth will sit in the House of Commons as Scottish members. Nor is the Scottish invasion of high office confined to the State, seeing that the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York are both Scotsmen bred and born. To Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman has been accorded for the first time in history the distinction of ranking next in precedence to the Archbishop of York. Hitherto the title of Prime minister has had no official standing. It was "constitutionally unknown," but it has now been defined by the King's proclamation, and in future the Prime Minister will enjoy the high precedence of ranking next to the Archbishop of York.

It is reported that the Vatican is negotiating for the reception of an Apostolic delegate at Tokio, and that a Buddhist mission is contemplated for the Japanese in Chicago. They are equally fitting from the standpoints of those who are projecting them, but each seems equally an anachronism from every other point of view. Buddhism and scarcely live in Christian America, and it is equally vain to think that even the shadow of Rome's temporal power can find lodgment in the great Empire of the East.

Henry Ward Beecher once said that he never liked to run races with himself by trying to do more any one year than he had ever done in any preceding year. There was some good sense in the remark. The Herald and Presbyterian endorse Beecher's view by saying: "Each day and each year should be lived and filled in an earnest and conscientious way. The one who does his whole duty, each year, in a wholesome and hearty way, will probably find himself growing in efficiency and in accomplishment each year. But if each one is full of what is good it matters little which one is the best."

An exchange says that the desire for foreign books is so great in China to-day that the missionary is pressed upon by the crowds, eager to get his Bibles and other publications, and the press at Shanghai is six months behind in its orders. The entrance of God's Word given light, and creates an appetite for more of sacred truth and instruction. The Bible in a heathen country will create a demand for a hundred copies, one tract a craving for numberless "portions" of the blessed Book. Herein lies a strong incentive to the distribution of religious literature among the needy, backward peoples of the earth.

Iceland has "no jail, no penitentiary; there is no court and only one policeman. Not a drop of alcoholic liquor is made on the island and its 78,000 people are total abstinence since they will not permit any liquor to be imported. There is not an illiterate on the island, not a child ten years old unable to read, the system of public schools being practically perfect. There are special seminaries and colleges, several good newspapers, and a printing establishment which every year publishes a number of excellent books on various lines." Such is the report brought by Northern travellers of this incomparable and ideal land. It speaks with a mighty voice for Prohibition.

This is what that veteran publicist, Prof. Goldwin Smith, has to say on the subject of church union: "Whether even the three Convention Churches will succeed in effecting an organic union may be doubtful; there are great difficulties of a practical kind to be overcome. But if we may judge by the report of the convention, the spiritual union of three great Protestant and Trinitarian churches is in a fair way of accomplishment, and this is no small gain. In the manifest differences are softened and the creeds are as far as possible rationalized, though fundamental orthodoxy is still maintained. So far as the Protestant and Trinitarian Churches are concerned the differences were originally to a great extent matters of personal or local accident, and were stereotyped by political power. The movement in its present stage excludes the Unitarians, as of course it does the Roman Catholics and that section of the Anglican Church which is sacerdotal and sacramental. But once on foot it may go far."

A legacy of love to the worthy is better than a fortune to the spendthrift.