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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Union of the Baptists in the Maritime Provinces has come up to the hopes of the churches. Probably not one of the congregations will stand aloof.

Miss Jane M. Kinney, B. A., at a meeting in the Presbyterian Church, Greenfield, N.B., was appointed a missionary to Formosa, under the authority of the Presbyterian Church of Canada (Western Section). She will be principal of the girls' school at Tamsui with Miss Council of Ontario as her colleague and assistant.

Dr. Dixon, of Boston, is not enamored of the "institutional church," so much talked about now-a-days, and which some other good men think solves the problem of "reaching the masses," and especially of holding the young men. He thinks it "a weight rather than a win" in real Christian work. Bowling alleys, billiard tables and the like are scarcely necessary to the success of Christian teaching and labor.

The Rev. W. L. Watkinson, of the English Wesleyan Church, who has just returned from a lengthy visit to South Africa, reports the religious outlook there as exceedingly hopeful. He tells us that the country was settled by the best Puritan stock, and that it is being brought into prominence by a people distinctive in religious, and for the most part non-conformist. While the Anglican Church has the largest membership, the non-conformist bodies are pushing ahead rapidly. All the Free Churches are well represented, while the city of Johannesburg is better supplied with churches than is London. The Boers are discovering in the religious life of the English colonist much to reconcile them to their loss of sovereignty.

The Presbyterian Witness of Picton, N.S., reports Dr. Robert Grierson, missionary to Korea, as having been critically ill for some time with Korean fever. He had the benefit of two Japanese physicians who were exceedingly kind and attentive. Miss MacMillan, M.D., then took charge of him and he had the full benefit of her skill and nursing. All has been done for him that skill and fidelity could accomplish. At the time the latest word came from Dr. MacMillan the patient was in a most critical condition. Dr. MacMillan however stated that the crisis would be over before her letter would reach Halifax, and that friends, if they should not before that date receive word by telegraph of his death, would be justified in expecting his recovery.

The San Francisco papers having suggested that the Americans should meet the Chinese boycott by boycotting tea from China, the Pacific Presbyterian says: "We do not think that there is any danger of such retaliation on the part of the American people. The prevailing sentiment is, even on the Pacific coast, that the Chinese have a just grievance; that the exempt classes were badly treated, and something was necessary to stir our people to a sense of the wrong that was being done. The Chinese will have to go to greater lengths than they have as yet before any large number of the American people can be worked up to any retaliation of the kind." The sober sense of the better classes of the American people will ere long assert itself and secure fair play for the people of China who go to the United States.

The Presbyterian Church of England has issued its official handbook. The new statistics, compared with those presented in 1876, when the Synod was first constituted in Liverpool, indicate encouraging progress. The number of congregations has gone up from 271, with a membership of 51,013, to 350, with a membership of 83,113. The estimated value of the church property in 1875 was 973,485 pounds sterling; now it is 2,303,707 pounds sterling; and yet, notwithstanding the generous outlay involved in so much church extension, the aggregate debts on the churches have been reduced by 8,923 pounds sterling. The Presbyterian Churches throughout the world associated with the Presbyterian Alliance now include 33,514 congregations, with 5,137,323 members.

Good intentions, strong emotions, even passionate resolutions, says the Canadian Churchman, when not followed by wise and sustained effort, pass, as does a vapor. "Listen," says the old veteran, "Borlasch of the guard," in Merriman's forceful novel. "It is not what you feel that matters; it is what you do. Remember . . ."

This recalls to mind a singularly appropriate remark made a good many years ago by the late D. T. Moody, at a Y.M.C.A. convention in Portland, Me. "These resolutions are all very well, but if you don't go home and put them into action they won't amount to flat"—snapping his fingers. "We don't read of the resolutions of the Apostles, but of the acts of the apostles."

War has often been used "to prepare the way of the Lord"—to open pathways for the Gospel of peace. The conquest of Alexander the Great marked an era in the progress of the purer faith. In modern times the conquest of India by Great Britain opened the great Hindoo Peninsula to the evangelizing agencies which are now the hope and glory of that land. Christian at Work quotes the Rev. W. E. Griffis as saying: "The Christianity that is converting and will make Japan great is above any sect, or church corporation, or name. It is the breath of the Spirit that bloweth where it listeth. No Christ in American or European garments will ever win Asia. It is the living Son of the Father, with the white hair of eternity and the eyes of eternal youth, that shall yet allure all from the throne to the hut. Not dressed in English, or American, or German, or Russian vestments but in the golden girdle and the seamless robe, he is drawing the choicest Japanese spirits to him."

The persistence of the dark races is noted as follows by the National Review: "Thirty years ago it was common enough to meet persons, not uneducated, who talked as though the darker races were dying out before the gin, gunpowder and disease disseminated by Europeans. Almost every one knows better now,—knows that the Chinese, the Hindu, the Arab, the negro—the chief colored races, in fact—increase and multiply wherever the white man restrains war, famine and pestilence. Even the American Indian, between Texas and the Gran Chaco, is in no hurry to be improved off the face of the New World. The education of the colored races and their equipment by European science are only beginning. Yet the last decade has witnessed the defeat of two great European Powers—one by chocolate-hued mountaineers, the other by tawny islanders."

According to the Presbyterian Standard, Mr. James H. Hyde of the New York Equitable is selling out his ancestral home, and is going to live in Canada, a man without a country. Ex-President Alexander, of the same company, is dying of a broken heart and a shattered mind. Senator Dewey finds the reputation of years for business integrity swept away forever. The way of the transgressor is hard. Be sure your graft will find you out, says our contemporary, and in another paragraph adds the following:

"And now the other insurance companies of New York, the big ones, are going to furnish their share of revelations of extravagance and graft. In the meantime, while we believe that there is no danger to the policy-holder, but rather safety in these investigations, we suggest that one can watch the basket in which he puts his insurance eggs better if it is located in his own State than when it is in New York." Perhaps Canadians might take a hint from this note and see if their "insurance eggs" would not be safer in Canadian companies.

Sir Harry Johnston, an Englishman who recently returned from his third visit to Liberia—the African colony and state founded as long ago as 1822 by the National Colonization Association of America—has given his views in the Geographical Journal. Summarizing his views the Presbyterian Banner says they are "on the whole favorable." His last visit was made after an interval of fifteen years. The country, he says, is about as large as the state of New York, low and swampy along the coast, but rising into a tableland. The primeval forest that as late as 1885 crept down to the sea has been cleared away in many places to make room for plantations and dwellings. About 3,500 square miles are occupied by the Americo-Liberians, of whom there are about 60,000 out of a total population of 2,000,000. The government is modeled after that of the United States, with President, Senate, and House of Representatives, and the capital is Monrovia, named after President Monroe, with a population of 5,000. The Americo-Liberians are Protestants and Episcopalians, and the native tribes, who occupy the hill country in the hinterland, are Mohammedans. Sir Harry says the climate is not unhealthy, though the coast is very hot, and mentions the curious fact that mosquitoes are few in number and are almost unknown in the forests. He expresses the opinion that out of the dense forest is to come the great wealth of Liberia. The wealth of this forest in India rubber-producing trees, vines and bushes, is without parallel in any other part of Africa except in one or two small areas in the Congo basin. With the present practices in collecting rubber this great field should be maintained at its full bearing capacity. The supply of rubber is a growing problem with the world, and here may be its solution. In Sir Harry Johnston's opinion the later generations of the negroes of American origin are taking hold of the work of developing the country with much more energy and intelligence than the immigrants. Liberia will show in its development a negro State with English as the governmental language, a coast belt inhabited by negroes professing Christianity and wearing clothing of European cut, and a hinterland of Mohammedans in picturesque and suitable costume. All these classes get along well together, and Liberia is in a peaceful and prosperous condition.