

## British and Foreign

It is said that there are 47 Chinese heathen temples in the United States.

St. Andrew's Church, Greenock (Rev. D. S. Adam), reports an income for last year of £2,328.

Six hundred names have been enrolled for membership in the proposed Ministers' Prayer Union.

Last year, 710,948 persons visited the Zoo. The animals, including birds and reptiles, numbered 2,656.

Rev. J. P. Lilley, B.D., has completed twenty-five years' service in the pastorate of Knox Church, Arbroath.

Elmwood congregation, Belfast, has resolved to erect an organ and to introduce electric light to the church, and has already £1,000 in hand toward these purposes.

Dr. Stewart, of Lovedale Free Church, Moderator-elect, has arrived in Britain, accompanied by his wife and family.

There is a Bible class for men in connection with Tay Square U. P. Church Mission, Dundee, which has a membership of over 100, and is conducted by a lady.

The increase in the contributions to the Free Church Sustentation Fund up to the present is £10,056. It is expected that the surplus this year will enable all stipends to be payable up to £200.

Special services were held on Sunday in St. Matthew's Church, Glasgow, on the introduction of an organ, which has cost £1,200. Dr. Stalker and Rev. Hugh Black, of St. George's, Edinburgh, preached.

"Dilly-dally until thirty" is the watchword of a club of "Bachelor girls" in Michigan. The members pledge themselves not to wed or even entertain proposals to marry till three decades have passed over their heads.

The congregation organized in the mission-hall in Donegall-road, Belfast, has now removed to the new church, under the ministry of Rev. J. McIlwraith, and the hall is set free again for mission work.

The Chamber of Commerce at Lagos has issued a writ for slander against Bishop Tugwell in connection with his recent statement that 75 per cent. of the deaths amongst Europeans on the West Coast of Africa are due to drunkenness.

The Queen on her eightieth birthday—the 24th inst.—will be serenaded at Windsor Castle by the combined local musical societies and choirs. A torchlight procession is also in contemplation. A Queen's Birthday Committee has been formed in London, and thus far a banquet at the Hotel Cecil has been arranged for. The Queen's birthday presents have commenced to arrive and include articles of priceless value from Indian princes.

A besotted man was sentenced in Liverpool for beating his sister to death. The defence set up by prisoner's counsel was that 'society was accountable for the filthy state of drunkenness in which he was when he committed the crime.'

Mr. Tom Mann, the well-known labor-leader, at one time a staunch teetotaler, has become landlord of a public house in London. The step on his part has occasioned considerable surprise. A few years ago an archbishop and others were urging him to be ordained.

English and Scotch Presbyterians are rejoicing that Rev. Alexander Connell has definitely declined the call to Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York. He announced his decision to a densely-crowded congregation on Sunday morning at Regent Square Church. The offer of £2,000 a year, with a parsonage, rent free, and expenses paid from this country to America, deserves to be called attractive. Mr. Connell evidently realises that.

Rev. William C. Conn, late of Kirriemuir Secession Church, a successor of the "Little Minister," had applied to the London Presbytery for admission into the ministry of the church. The Synod unanimously refused to grant the application. Rev. C. H. Irwin, formerly of Carlton, Melbourne, was received into the ministry, as also was Rev. James Nairn, formerly of St. Lambert, Canada. An Irish licentiate was refused admission simply on the ground that it would not be fair to the Church's probationers.

Statistics to be laid before the Established Church Assembly show that the membership of the Church at the end of 1898 was 648,476, as against 641,803 at the close of the previous year, an increase of 6,673. During the last twenty years the membership of the Church has increased by 132,690. Baptisms for last year numbered 40,059, a decrease of 419. The contributions embraced under the heading of 'Christian Liberty' show a decrease for Edinburgh Presbytery of £5,917, while Glasgow Presbytery comes out with an increase of £1,491.

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