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Note and Comment.

It is feared that the withdrawal of the Allied troops in China will be the signal for an immediate renewal of the Boxer attacks upon the native Christians.

A great meeting in Melbourne, Australia, has adopted a resolution protesting against any alteration in the British Sovereign's Coronation oath and Protestant declaration.

The attendance at the Glasgow Exhibition on the 3rd inst. was 53,571, making a total of 148,025 for the two days. The attendance on the second day at the Exhibition of 1888 was 32,568.

Rev. Dr. Hillis, of Plymouth Church, believes that a means of saving the country from the peril of gambling which might be effective would be to suppress all news of gambling, and to make gamblers ineligible for citizenship.

There are 18 asylums for the insane in Canada, Ontario having seven, Quebec five, Nova Scotia one, New Brunswick one, and Prince Edward Island one. There were eleven thousand inmates according to the last statistical year book.

It is reported that the spread of the plague in Cape Colony, South Africa, cannot be checked until the rats are exterminated. They spread infection so actively that strong measures should be taken everywhere to put an end to the whole tribe.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Kennedy, the Moderator designate of the forthcoming General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland, was on the 30th ult. presented by his congregation—North Richmond street, Edinburgh—with moderatorial robes and a purse of sovereigns.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilchrist of Clinton, Ont., have an experience in married life that is remarkable; they have been married 54 years and have had 9 children, every one of whom is alive and well. Not many families can boast of such a long period of married life, without a break therein by death.

Rev. James Chalmers, who has been murdered in New Jamaica, was a fine type of the old-fashioned sturdy Scot, who was very well known among the churches both in England and Scotland, and wherever he preached on the occasion of his last visit was listened to by crowded congregations.

The following is the total expenditure of Great Britain on some of the great wars of the past:—1714, Spanish succession, £50,000,000; 1775, wars with France and Spain, £43,000,000; 1793, seven years' war, £82,000,000; 1792, American independence, £97,000,000; 1816, Napoleonic wars, £831,000,000; 1855-6, Crimean war, £70,000,000; 1899-1901, South Africa and China, £153,000,000.

The tax-payers of Toronto should not make a single complaint about the cost of their beautiful city building. They get off easily compared with some of their neighbors. The Philadelphia City Hall was designed to cost \$3,000,000, and was to be completed within ten years, an extraordinary allowance of time. It has cost \$37,000,000 and after nearly thirty years is yet incomplete.

The Rev. A. B. Simpson, of New York, at one time minister of Knox Church, Hamilton, president of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, has made his financial report for the year. The total contributions were \$264,639 54, an increase of \$110,084.15 over the previous year. Since the Alliance started the total contributions were \$1,448,900, of which more than half was raised in the last four years.

Rev. G. D. Wilder records one very pleasing incident connected with the siege of Tien Tsin. Mr. Edward Cousins, the agent of a steamship company located there, took in all the refugees of 4 missions, including some 70 Chinese, and at his own expense fed them for about a fortnight. When somebody told him it would hurt his business, he replied: "It is my business to care for God's people."

Of the learned pundit, Hafiz Abdul Karim, who is about to return to his native country, the 'Sketch' says that he was the instructor in Hindustani of Queen Victoria, and, as perceptor to Her Majesty he certainly occupied a unique position. He taught Her Majesty not only the language of her far-distant subjects, but also gave her a clearer insight into the ways and means of India than any Englishman could have done.

The year book of Bethany Presbyterian church, of Philadelphia, at which Rev. Wm. Patterson, late of Cooke's Church, City, is the pastor, has just reached Canada. It is in magazine form, and contains 98 pages. In a pastoral letter Mr. Patterson informs his congregation that there are 5,000 teachers and children connected with the Sunday school department of the church, while "Bethany touches 10,000 lives every week." The yearly receipts of the church amounted to \$71,000,38, which after all expenses were met, left a balance of \$87.41 on hand.

It does not seem generally known to the English public that Dr. Weldon, the Bishop of Calcutta, has proposed to the Government of India that they should in future arrange for the Bible to be taught in their educational institutions. Dr. Weldon, however, does not urge that Bible teaching should be compulsory (as is the case in mission schools and colleges), so that the Government would still be able to maintain its attitude of paying respect to the convictions of the adherents of the different creeds in India. The Bishop's proposal has not been favourably received by much of the vernacular, and by part of the Anglo-Indian Press.

General Lord Kitchener continues to report the killing of more Boers, the capture of others, and the surrendering of a much greater number, besides the capture of great herds of horses and cattle and vast stores of ammunition. The number of burghers who are surrendering is rapidly increasing, and those surrendering say that the Boers are quite worn out by the incessant movements of the British troops. The majority of those now surrendering are without horses, are half-starved and are poorly clad.

A curious case arising out of a Mormon marriage is before the United States courts. Many years ago a Mormon maiden was supposed to be dying. Without a husband, her religion told her, she could never share in the resurrection, so she persuaded a certain Professor Park to become her husband 'for eternity only'. Such deathbed marriages, to fulfil the letter of the Mormon law, are not infrequent. The girl, however, recovered and married another husband, for life. The 'eternity husband', who was practically a stranger to her, died the other day, and the 'eternity wife' immediately brought suit to obtain a portion of his estate.

The union of the Free Church of Scotland with the United Presbyterian Church of the same country in October last, carrying with it the amalgamation of the two missionary societies, has already issued in the creation of a society of unusual strength and of widespread influence. By this federation the new society will now have a staff of nearly 400 missionaries, including the zenana woman missionaries with more than 34,000 native communicants. A resolution has just been adopted to make the sum of \$1,250,000 as the first year's income, which will mean an increase of about one fourth on the joint incomes of the two societies for the past year, 1900. As a result of this notable union the United Free Church of Scotland Missionary Society will take the second place among the missionary organizations in Great Britain.

In North America Protestantism is the leading power, representing 78 per cent. of the population to 11 per cent. of the Catholicism. In Europe the Catholics still outnumber the Protestants two to one, but in America Protestantism has seven times the strength of Catholicism. Catholic missionaries report 3,000,000 converts, and Protestants 2,500,000. The former, however, are the result of an activity of 300 years, and the latter of an activity of only 100 years. As a result, too, the educational facilities and achievements of the Protestant countries are greatly in advance of those of Catholic lands. The inferiority of the school system of Catholic countries is seen graphically in their large per centage of alphabets. Italy averages 47 per cent who can neither read nor write; Austria 38 per cent; France, 14 per cent; Germany, 1 per cent; Sweden, 0.39 per cent; and Denmark, 0.30 per cent. The real reason for this remarkable contrast lies in the religious status of these lands.