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NOTE AND COMMENT

Santa Fe, the oldest city but one in the United States, by her city council, passed an ordinance closing all saloons after January 1, 1910.

A committee has been appointed by the British Medical Association to consider healing the sick through such methods as the Emmanuel Movement.

There is a mission school in China where six Chinese girls can repeat by heart the whole of the New Testament. We question whether this could be paralleled in any other country in the world.

Florence Nightingale, who has just entered her 90th birthday, was the recipient of a great number of congratulatory messages and flowers on her birthday. She is very feeble, and is confined to her rooms in London.

The seal of Oliver Cromwell, now in the possession of a prominent family in Wales, is a plain gold mounted corundum stone five-eighths of an inch in diameter. It dates from 1653, and was used on several of his deeds. The whole of the Lord's Prayer is engraved upon it.

The condition of the celebrated Cologne Cathedral is reported by the architect to be unsatisfactory, as the stone is crumbling very rapidly. The necessary repairs are so extensive that they will cost many millions and take years to carry out. Anything affecting the stability of this beautiful building would be cause for regret.

Some years ago Dwight L. Moody offered to his Northfield pupils a prize of five hundred dollars for the best thought. The prize was awarded for the following:—"Men grumble because God put thorns with roses. Would it not be better to thank God that he puts roses with thorns?" How much more helpful it is to look at thorns as blessed with roses, than to think of roses as cursed with thorns!

Tennyson's favorite passage of Scripture was Rev. 10 16, the magnificent episode of the "strong angel," whose "face was as the sun," a description which has been the admiration and despair of other imaginative poets. Principal Forsyth prefers Isa. 14, 323, with its superb thirteenth verse: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O day-star, son of the morning." Sunday at Home has been collecting the opinions of various eminent Englishmen upon the "most magnificent passage in the Bible," and some of the answers are:—Job 28; Psa. 100; Isa. 40; Heb. 12, 18 24; Rom. 8, 19 39; and Rev. 11, 15.

An important hygienic principle is enunciated by the Lancet when discussing the early morning cup of tea, in which many persons indulge. It is that injurious matter accumulated in the mouth during the night is, if the warm drink is partaken of before the mouth and teeth have been cleaned, washed into the stomach, and a poisonous process might thus be begun. Gastric catarrh is doubtless thus caused. As to the early cup of tea habit, the Lancet says that when tea, properly infused, is harmful, is when it is taken without food; that is, when the stomach is empty; but milk neutralizes the tannin substances and prevents their acting as irritants. We question whether the cup of tea before rising is a good habit.

The following bit of exaggerated sarcasm is not without its application to Canada:—A Washington Congressman suggested an American characteristic when he said in a public address the other day that "unless the man of today practises economy more extensively and stops selling the kitchen range to get tickets to the circus and mortgaging the house his wife's father had given her in order to buy a blood-colored automobile, there is bound to be grave trouble."

A conference of rich and influential Jews is soon to be held in New York City to further the enterprise of purchasing Jerusalem and Palestine for a future home of the descendants of Abraham to whom Jehovah promised that land forever. Dr. Briggs once said these are some of the promises of God which would never be fulfilled. They could not now be fulfilled, for the time had gone by. In our judgment the promises of God to Israel concerning Palestine are not among those that cannot now be fulfilled.

Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell is one of the most interesting men of our time. His own record of his "Experiences on the Labrador," which will be published in the June "Century," must have a vivid and unique interest. "The object of the Labrador mission is to help men to live, and not to die; and so to live as not merely to cumber this earth for a few more years, but to live as worthier sons of that great Father whose face we all expect one day to see," is this hero's own characterization of the ideal of his life's work.

Music has been pronounced a specific for pneumonia and lung complaints. Mr. W. Tattersall, conductor of a choir in Southport, England, says that if all the people were trained in voice production, not by the lifting of the shoulders, but by the natural, easy, and comfortable singing, breathing naturally like an animal, with no affectation, he believes we should hear less of pneumonia and lung complaints. This should be an inducement to join in congregational singing, instead of leaving it to the choir to do it all.

The work that Dr. Robertson began has grown with the succeeding years, says West-Land. Instead of a Western Superintendent there are now provincial superintendents, and each year is meaning more to be done and more need of it. The chain of superintendents has now been completed, so far as nomination goes, and the choice of Rev. Wm. Rochester by the Alberta Synod does credit to both the Synod and the man. He is the man for Alberta. He can do the work, and the work offers a field which will employ and develop the well admitted abilities of the man. The Church awaits his acceptance.

In the report on education, submitted to the American General Assembly, the significant statement is made that the majority of the ministerial candidates come from the humbler homes of the Church, and it also adds that families whose home-life is simple, frugal, and unaffected, generally produce the best type of minister. The truth of these statements will probably be questioned by no one; as it seems only too evident to every man who looks into the matter. It is, after all, but another illustration of the fact that the best type of man (as well as minister) comes from the home which is clean, intelligent, and free from artificiality.

A prominent lawyer in Boston describes Mrs. Eddy as "the founder and sole proprietor of Christian Science."

The hotelkeepers of Brockville have signed an agreement that they will strictly observe the license law, and the inspector in its enforcement, and discharge any employee who violates it. They also ask that photographs of minors, or others to whom liquor is not to be sold, shall be furnished them, so they can be identified. This is well, and if they adhere to their determination they will do much to remove the objections urged against the liquor traffic as it is usually conducted. Selfish are frequently tempted to transgress by the impertunity of buyers, and the latter, as well as the former, should be punished for violating the law. Hotelkeepers in other places would do well to follow this example.

The progress of missions in Central Africa is phenomenal for rapid extension and encouraging results, says the Missionary Review of the World. It is only thirty years since work began in response to Stanley's appeal that at least one missionary be sent to this, at that time, almost unknown region. To-day there are 100 ordained native pastors, 2,000 churches and schools, 60,000 converts, and 300,000 native children in the Christian schools. In Uganda, not included in the above, there are 32 native clergy, besides the 2,500 native evangelists and helpers, who have 1,000 places of worship, including a cathedral that seats 4,000. The baptized converts number 50,000, and the attendants at Sunday service are as many. In Uganda alone there are 100,000 natives who can now read and write, and 250,000 who receive regularly Christian instruction. Such success is almost unparalleled in the history of missions.

The first legal decision which we have seen bearing on the pre-nuptial contract made by a Protestant and a Roman Catholic with regard to the religious training of children who might be born of the union, says the Lutheran Observer, was rendered by Judge Matthew G. Reynolds, recently, in St. Louis. It is well known that the Roman Catholic Church will not countenance the marriage of one of its communion with a non-Catholic unless there is an agreement, properly signed, that children born to the couple shall be trained in the Catholic faith. The failure to live up to such an agreement was recently carried to the courts by the Catholic party, and Judge Reynolds decided that the contract was not of a character that could be enforced by law. Mixed marriages, unless one or both of the parties are indifferent to the meaning and claims of religion, are always productive of trouble, and the trouble is invariably accentuated when children are born. Peace can only be through surrender by one or the other, and unless that surrender is due to a genuine conversion to the faith of the other, it is the peace of dishonor that means for the one surrendering the end of practical religious life. Such marriages are a calamity from whatever view they are taken—as unpopular with the Protestant as with the Catholic; nevertheless, we are glad to see a legal decision as to the status of a contract which many men and women, on coming to an understanding of all that is involved in it, have found it impossible to keep without doing violence to every dictate of an enlightened conscience.