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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Zionist Conference which has just closed at Cologne, rejected all suggestions to make the home settlement of the Jews elsewhere than in Palestine. The territorial fund now exceeds \$875,000.

In England, at several points, meetings have been held this summer for deepening of the spiritual life of the Churches. They have been conducted by and participated in by leading ministers, evangelists, and laymen.

An active campaign in opposition to possible union with the northern Presbyterian Church is being conducted in the southern Presbyterian Church. The portrait which is painted of the Northern Church by the opponents of union is not a pleasing one.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has sent out invitations to the premiers of the respective provinces to attend the conference to be held in Ottawa on October 8. Increased subsidies to the several provinces will be the important subject for discussion.

The British Museum has recently acquired a document of considerable historic interest, this being the original proclamation in manuscript, signed by the Lord Justices of England, offering \$150,000 for the person of Prince Charles Edward Stuart. The document is dated August 1, 1745.

The plenary meeting of bishops in Paris to discuss the separation of Church and State and the recent papal encyclical, will, it is expected, confirm in every detail the Pope's view of the situation, namely, that no possible compromise can be reached between the Catholic Church and the French Government in this case.

In an article on the growth of Christian Science membership, a correspondent of the Advance quotes this striking sentence of Lord Macaulay, referring to Joanna Southcott, who seems to have been as successful a century ago as Mrs. Eddy is today:

"We have seen an old woman with no talents beyond the cunning of a fortune-teller, and with the education of a scullion, exalted into a prophetess, and surrounded by tens of thousands of devoted followers, many of whom were, in station and in knowledge, immeasurably her superiors; and all this in the nineteenth century; and all this in London."

South America is one of the largest Roman Catholic lands. Its area is twice that of Europe. There are no less than fourteen nationalities within its borders. Its population is, however, comparatively small, being estimated at about 30,000,000, three fourths of whom are Catholics, and the remainder heathen. This land, subdued by the sword of conquest, its aboriginal inhabitants confronted with extermination or entrance into Papal Church, has been for four centuries in the thralldom of permissiveness and intolerance. During present generation revolution after revolution has shown to the world that beneath the rigid intolerance of the Roman Church there are raging fires of independence of thought that will eventually break forth. Whether the spiritual result will be atheism or a purer Christian faith depends largely upon the faithfulness of Protestant missions on this great continent.

The veteran Congregationalist of London, Rev. Dr. J. Guinness Rogers, and his wife have just celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage. He is 84 years of age, but still addresses public assemblies with great vigor.

Not only has France severed the ties which bound her to Rome, but Spain seems to be looking and moving steadily in the same direction. King Alfonso renews his decree that Protestantism shall have full rights within his realm and that marriages by civil authorities shall be recognized as legal. This he has done despite formal protest from the Vatican.

Rev. George Matheson, D. D., LL.D., F. R. S. E., the eminent Scottish preacher and author died very suddenly a fortnight ago. He was "The blind Preacher," one of the best known and best beloved of our day. He wrote the hymn in our book of praise, "O Love that will not let me go." His works are numerous and valuable. He was 64 years of age.

The work of the Moravian Brotherhood on the coast of Labrador is the subject of an article by Gustav Kobbe which the September Century will print with illustrations by Mr. J. Burns. The beginning of the Moravian Missionary work on Labrador dates back to 1762, and its history is a long record of isolation, hardships, and noble sacrifices, with scant returns—a narrative of pathetic and appealing interest.

An exchange says: "The world does move, even in the heart of dusky, dreary Africa. Seventeen years ago it was a capital crime in Uganda to learn to read and write. Now there are 50,000 natives in that province who have had the advantage of training in the mission schools. In view of such facts—which might be matched or surpassed by greater miracles of grace in other parts of the world—it is strange that any people remain sceptical regarding the value of Christian missions."

A beautiful memorial is soon to mark the spot where the great Livingstone died while on his knees at Ilala, near Chitambo's kraal, Central Africa, not far from seventy miles south-east of Lake Bangweolo. The place is off the line of travel in Africa, and remote from the mission stations founded in the central district since Livingstone's death. His heart was buried beneath the tree on the spot where he died, but the place is marked by an obelisk. It is now proposed to establish west of Lake Nyassa, the other one at Chitambo, which is nearly 250 miles west of Lake Nyassa, the other one at Miron.

Captain Spencer, the senior prison missionary of the Church Army in England, has a varied collection of stories of convicts. Here is one—Approaching a convict one day, he asked, "What do you do when you are out of prison?" "Well," said the man, "in spring I does a bit of pea picking, and in the summer time I does a bit of fruit picking, and in the autumn I does a bit of hop picking." "Oh!" said the captain, "What happens after that?" "Well, now, mister," replied the convict, "I may as well be honest and tell you that in the winter time I does a bit of pocket picking." The missionary furrowed his brow as he asked once more, "And what happens then?" "Why, here I am," responded the man, holding up his work, "I does a bit of oakum picking!"

It is to be remembered that the commission which Japan sent to San Francisco, to investigate the results of the earthquake and learn what it could do for the control of building Japan, reported that most of the destruction by the earthquake was due to defective mortar. The commission found that had honest mortar been used in construction, and the bricks been wet when laid, few brick buildings would have been destroyed.

Rev. Edwin Kellogg, a distinguished graduate of Princeton, and a son of the late Rev. S. H. Kellogg, D.D., the well-known missionary and scholar, whose name is familiar to many Canadians, has been appointed by the American Presbyterian Board to their North India mission. He takes with him his wife, formerly Miss Constance Henderson, granddaughter of the late Mrs. Ewart, at one time President of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

In China it is proposed to summon a conference of Viceroy and other high officials to discuss the adoption of modern methods of government, with a constitution for empire. The Chinese Commissioners who recently visited the United States recommend a series of changes which will cover ten or fifteen years. The Empress Dowager, who proved a veritable Jizebel, apparently became convinced of the futility of old methods, and of late has been encouraging various reforms.

The Minutes of the Southern Presbyterian Church, just off the press, show that that church has 1,577 ministers, a net gain of twenty for the year. It has 3,136 churches, a net gain of seven; fifty-four new churches were organized, but forty-four were dissolved. The present membership is 252,882, a gain of 6,186, which is above the proportion of most denominations in this country. The proportion of infant baptisms in the Southern Church is slightly lower than in the Presbyterian, U.S.A., as is that of adult baptisms. The contributions of the Southern Church to home missions show a decided increase, while those to foreign missions have fallen off perceptibly. Three hundred and twenty-six candidates for the ministry are reported.

One of the secretaries of the Lord's Day Alliance says: A recent hurried tour in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Quebec has shown us the increasing interest of the people in the efforts of the Alliance to defend the Lord's Day. Everywhere the people were anxious to know about the new legislation and its effect upon certain things in their own community, and there was most hearty approval of the Bill expressed everywhere. Many persons had misunderstood the scope of the new measure, but when explained they all declared that the Bill was one which would greatly safeguard the Lord's Day, and at the same time advance the economic, industrial and mercantile interests of Canada. The Alliance is constantly increasing its numbers and influence. New branches are being organized and new members added to the old branches. Calling upon leading citizens in Charlottetown, St. John, Fredericton, Quebec, and Montreal, we were cordially received, and found these prominent citizens were thoroughly sympathetic and desirous to help forward our work.