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Note and Comment.

In the local option movement which is making great progress in the Southern States, the main issue kept before the people is that the saloon is the worst possible solution of the liquor problem, and therefore should be abolished. And the people are voting out the saloon with surprising unanimity. It is a very practical form of prohibition.

An American paper says that the Massachusetts legislature, at its last session made a remarkably good record on moral questions. Practically every bill, and there have been many, in favor of the liquor interests and Sabbath desecration, has been defeated. A so-called Sunday recreation bill, permitting golf, baseball, and other games after 1 p.m., was defeated in the Senate 22 to 4.

The total number of ordained missionaries in the foreign field is 5,863. Of these, 1,999 are from America, 2017 are from Great Britain, and 910 are from Germany and the Netherlands. The average number of conversions in the mission work is about seventeen to each ordained missionary.

A correspondent of the Herald and Presbyter, writing from Winona, is impressed with the way the Sabbath is observed there. He says: "I have never seen a Sabbath more beautifully kept than here. It is an impressive lesson. So is the successful Winona and Warsaw electric trolley line, which never turns a wheel on the Sabbath." We are not so well off in this city.

Dr. Lyman Abbott recently told a group of theological students that it has been his practice for years to set aside the hour after the mid day meal as exclusively his own, when he is not to be disturbed "unless the house is on fire and the fire has reached the second storey." Then he is free to dip into poetry or rest or meditate with folded hands as he chooses.

The South-Western Presbyterian notes as a significant fact that President Roosevelt, of the Republican party, is a member in good standing of the Dutch Reformed Church, and Judge Parker of the Democratic party helped take up the collection in the church at Kingston the Sunday after his nomination. Nothing to be ashamed of in being a church member. Some pretty good people there!

The Christian Observer remarks that the Presbyterians of St. Louis deserve all praise for the efforts they are making to reach the multitudes who are gathering week by week in St. Louis to attend the great Exposition in progress there. They have carefully matured plans, and are carrying them out well. The Music Hall is used for the services every Sunday afternoon. A Gospel wagon is also used, and services are held at the gates, at the Exposition. Inside Inn, and at other places. This is a most worthy effort, and we hope that all Presbyterians who are in St. Louis over Sabbath will show their interest in this movement, by attending these services, and by giving any assistance in their power.

Not less than ten thousand people, mostly from among the poorer classes, attended the funeral of the late Dr. Herzl, the Zionist leader, at Vienna recently. Dr. Herzl requested that his funeral services be very plain and simple—no speeches and no flowers, and that his body be deposited in a vault beside the remains of his father until such time as the Jewish people should carry it to Palestine.

A remarkable showing this: The Yoruba people received Church Missionary Society missionaries at Abeokuta in 1846. They were then pagan, used human sacrifices in worship, and sometimes practised cannibalism. In 1904, the whole charge of the Anglican Christian work at Abeokuta, both educational and evangelistic, is in the hands of native pastors and teachers raised up from the old pagan stock within fifty years, and the paramount Chief of Abeokuta calls at the C.M.S. missionary house in London, to express warmly his sense of the benefits his people have received from the society.

Rev. Dr. John Clifford, of London, has been again before the Court for refusing to pay the education tax. The Court room was filled with those sympathizing with him, and when he was called, he read a statement, but was interrupted several times by the Bench, with a request to deal with "relevant points." This the resisters resented, but they cheered Dr. Clifford when he replied: "If you do not listen you can not tell what is relevant." The burden of Dr. Clifford's vigorous speech was that it was not the duty of the State to teach religious dogmas. Complete freedom in these things was the right of every British citizen—a right he should enjoy if he dwelt under the British flag in Canada or Australia, and a right he could not surrender because he lived in England.

The Belfast Witness has the following: Another boy preacher has made his appearance, and has been attracting great audiences at Holloway. His father is an American Indian and his mother a negress, and he has reached the age of ten. He has never been to school, proclaims his indifference to "creeds and opinions," and marches up and down the platform in a white surplice. In moments of confidence he explains to his audiences that when between two and three years of age he "felt a Divine call to speak to men about their souls," and at first he "practised on dolls." When he was four he preached regularly in a Congregational church and he has been constantly preaching ever since. We cannot pretend to regard these facts with any enthusiasm, this kind of precocity appealing to us no more in religion than in music. If time proves him to have the necessary gifts, the best we can hope for young Dennis is that, in due course, he will enter a college, which we are glad to see the "boy preacher of Camborne" is about to do.

"It is reported in the German press," says Forestry and Irrigation, "that successful experiments have been made in various forests of France in cutting trees by means of electricity. A platinum wire is heated to a white heat by an electric current and used like a saw. In this manner the tree is felled much

easier and quicker than in the old way, no sawdust is produced, and the slight carbonization caused by the hot wire acts as a preservative of the wood. The new method is said to require only one-eighth of the time consumed by the old sawing-process."

Temperance reform is making progress in Scotland. The licensing act of that country passed seventeen years ago, contained a clause authorizing the licensing powers to order the closing of licensed places at ten o'clock every week night, except in towns and cities of over 50,000 inhabitants. This exception has now been struck out of the licensing law, and it is very satisfactory to note that every one of the hitherto excepted towns has come into line by accepting the act. Even Edinburgh and Glasgow, about which there was thought to be some doubt, have adopted the ten o'clock rule, so that every licensed house in Scotland is closed at that hour. Why should not a ten o'clock closing hour be imposed upon licensed establishments in this country?

A twenty-six inch umbrella that will fold up and go in an inside pocket without crowding, has been invented and constructed by a Minneapolis man, we are told in The American Inventor. Says this paper: "This seems almost incredible until the secret is told. The handle and all the ribs consist of fine and very strong steel tubes, in sections, which telescope one inside the other. The covering is of very fine silk, which takes up but little room. The wooden handle of the umbrella is hollow and receives all the rest of the telescoping umbrella rod when shut up. A small and light case is provided to contain the whole, which, as stated, goes easily into the pocket. If such a device can be made and sold for a reasonable price, there is little to prevent the owner from making a fortune; there are few men who would not welcome an umbrella which could be always carried without inconvenience, and which could be put out of the way of the borrower-who-never returns, when entering a public place, such as a restaurant."

"The farmers' telephone was a boon during heavy and unprecedented snows," says The Electrical World and Engineer, "and many interesting uses are reported in New York State in places where many roads were blocked with drifts over ten feet deep. Hemmed in so that they could not see a neighbor for weeks, farmers have been able to converse with their friends and thus keep in touch with the world. In some instances they have reported cases of sickness to the doctor in town and have obtained advice about care of the sick and the administration of simple remedies as they might have at home. On one of these circuits in Oswego County all the families having telephones have received frequent treats from Mr. William Cushman, a farmer, who last summer bought a fine Edison phonograph. He calls up the families on the circuit and they open the receivers. Then he sets the phonograph up to the transmitter and sets it going. Its records are thus heard over miles of country by a widely scattered audience."