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NOTE AND COMMENT

Mr. Carnegie has commenced the distribution of free public libraries on the continent of Europe. He began with a gift of one million dollars for a library building at Berlin.

The abolition by law of a large number of Sunday trains in Belgium has, according to a statement of the Minister of Railways, reduced the fatal accidents due to any fault of the employees, more than fifty per cent.

A despatch today from Seoul says Protestant Christianity in Corea has increased over sixty per cent in the past year, and there is promise of a national evangelization under the auspices of the American missionaries. Catholicism is apparently stationary.

One of the signs of a missionary revival is the action of 1,074 Presbyterian business men in the United States who, after three days spent in serious consideration of the claims of the Kingdom upon laymen, voted to call upon the churches of their denomination for 6,000 more missionaries and for \$6,000,000 a year for the work.

The death is announced of Francis Murphy, "Apostle of Temperance," at his home in Los Angeles, Cal. He was an eloquent and magnetic speaker, and a man of magnificent appearance. The greatest men in the country were his firm friends, and he aided hundreds of reformed men—who had been in the gutter—to become good and respectable citizens, and the heads of happy households.

The Japanese troops have recently captured the stronghold of the savage territory of Formosa. The country has never been occupied by a civilized population, and contains great wealth in camphor forests. Formosa, under Chinese rule, was a land of robbers and savages. The Japanese had a difficult task to reduce it to order, and have gradually brought the island under orderly government, to the great advantage of the native population. It is now believed that the resistance of the savages is broken.

German newspapers see in the entanglement of agreements and alliances to which the European and Asiatic nations are parties an attempt "to build a wall of paper around Germany which may eventually give place to a wall of iron." It is altogether likely that these treaties are partly the result of the Kaiser's aggressiveness in the Morocco affair. It is not improbable that Italy and even Austria may think it wise to become partners in the new Mediterranean arrangement, a course which would break up the Triple Alliance and leave Germany absolutely alone.

The commission to report on the Georgian Bay Canal scheme has nearly completed its labors, and the papers are publishing figures. The project is to connect Georgian Bay with the St. Lawrence River by a twenty-one foot waterway. The plan seems to be a feasible one, but the cost will run, it is estimated, over \$100,000,000. If this great project is pushed to a successful conclusion, it will shorten the distance by water from Fort William to Montreal by about 400 miles, and reduce the cost of carrying grain from the west to tide-water by about three and one-half cents a bushel.

It is said that the Chinese anti-opium regulations in Peking and elsewhere are being well enforced, and the feeling against opium use is gaining force.

The eagerness of the Burmese to hear and receive the Gospel message is frequently the basis of incidents both pathetic and heroic, says the Morning Star of Boston. One morning a man came to Rangoon from a distant village, seeking to be baptized. He waited all day without food for Dr. Price, who was away from home, and at evening went away sorely disappointed because the missionary had not returned. At another time several coolies (the poorest class of day laborers) urged that a Christian teacher be sent to their village, and offered to build a house for him and supply him with rice, if he would but come and teach them the Gospel.

While Canada and the United States are receiving great masses of immigrants from Europe, there is a great movement in Russia itself, not however, westward, but eastward. From European Russia there is flowing a mighty tide of emigration into Asiatic Russia. From January 1 to May 15 of this year 233,665 persons passed through one town on the border of Siberia, and most of these will settle east of Lake Baikal. The one-track railway is sorely taxed to handle the crowds; and the surveyors cannot measure out the lands half fast enough for the settlers. This vast movement, if it continues, will help to solve the land problem in European Russia, and incidentally will provide a new and powerful factor in the settlement of the Manchurian question.

Re-action is said to have set in throughout Wales, and in the opinion of many who are intimate with the facts of the case, the position of religious affairs in Wales is "at the present time critical." This is not to be wondered at, remarks the Canadian Baptist, nor does it necessarily discredit the genuine character of the Welsh Revival. The experience of re-action is almost invariably encountered where religious emotions have been excited, and there is generally some chaff garnered with the wheat. After the Welsh Revival, as in the case of any revival, there has been great need for earnest watch-care and guidance respecting the hundreds of converts whose faith was more emotional than intelligent, and who, therefore, were in need of helpful leading and instruction.

The excitement caused by Mr. R. J. Campbell and his "New Theory," has somewhat subsided in England, but the effect remains. The newspapers still treat Mr. Campbell with some deference, but he has ceased to be a power in the Free Churches. At the annual meeting of the Federation he was personally treated with respect, but his doctrine was sung down with the hymn, "When I survey the wondrous cross." The Federation removed his name from the management committee; and since then every engagement he had with local Free Church Councils has been cancelled by their committees. This has not been done through any spirit of personal hostility; but it simply represents the church's instinctive feeling that the gospel Mr. Campbell preaches is not the gospel that can save the world. His teaching is not condemned because it is new, but rather because it does not commend itself to the mind of the church as true.

An encouraging sign of the times in England is a movement for a stricter Sabbath, which has the support of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, and the Rev. John S. Lidgett, representing the Non-Conformist churches. A joint message to the nation has been issued, calling for a saner and more spiritual use of the Lord's Day. It is noteworthy that ecclesiastics so different in temperament and view are uniting in this cause, and the fact that this protest has been made should encourage all lovers of the Sabbath and of God's law in Canada.

Says the Brockville Recorder: Master Ian Strachan, the little son of Rev. D. Strachan, was the instigator of a charitable movement which culminated yesterday in Master Ian handing over to the treasurer of the Children's Aid Society the proceeds of a "show" held by him and four other playmates, Laurier Taylor, Lorner Hav, Allison Murray and Donaldson Fisher. The admission fee was one cent, lemonade, not the "red" variety was sold, and the boys had a "circus" all to themselves. As none of the little fellows are nine years old, the idea of donating the chance to a charitable cause is worthy of mention.

Not long ago a distinguished layman was pleading that the new minister should have at least a fair chance to win his way; and he made the statement that two men and one woman could make it impossible for any pastor to succeed in a congregation. It seems like a startling statement, and yet there is such an amount of truth back of it as to make it worth considering. There are few people who deliberately aim to destroy a minister's influence; yet there are some who do it just as effectually as if they really meant to do it. If a minister fails, it is not irrelevant to ask, "Why did he fail?" and sometimes at least the answer will be, "We helped to make him fail."

After hearing the report that the overture on Church Federation had been carried in the presbyteries by a vote of 950 yeas to 89 nays, the United Presbyterian General Assembly (U.P.S.A.) formally declared that the "Articles of Agreement" for the Federation of the Reformed churches in America holding the Presbyterian system, had been approved. A proposal to consolidate the Board of Home Missions, Church Extension and Freedmen's Missions was referred to a committee to report next year. A committee was appointed to co-operate with other committees in arranging for the celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of John Calvin, and was instructed to plan for a Calvin memorial service in connection with the General Assembly of 1909. The assembly prescribed that persons desiring to do general evangelistic work in the church must secure certificates of fitness from their presbyteries, and that congregations employ as special evangelists only those who have such certificates or the endorsement of some recognized ecclesiastical body. All committees having to do with the use of the Psalms in worship were consolidated into a Permanent Committee on Psalmody. Action upon the scheme for the proposed National Interchurch Temperance Council was postponed for another year. Although no progress was noted in the movement for union with the Associate Reformed Synod of the South, the committee on the subject was continued.