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Note and Comment.

The new Oxford Dictionary will contain a new "longest word in the English language," to wit: "nonintercommunicability."

The latest statistics show that the United States has over 200,000 miles of railroad and less than 20,000 miles of good wagon roads.

Principal Grant, of Queen's University, accompanied by Mr. Grant, is visiting Winnipeg. He will return to Kingston in a few days. Professor Jordan has been holidaying seventy-five miles north of the capital, but returned on Friday to take the services in St. Andrew's church, Ottawa, last Sunday.

The Marquis of Dufferin has recently published some literary reviews of his mother, Helen Lady Dufferin, who was a woman of extraordinary brilliancy and genius. The volume is rendered of additional value by a preface, in which Lord Dufferin gives a charming account of his mother's family, the Sheridans.

Mrs. Gladstone's manner, the Times remarks, was full of grace and charm. The genuine amiability of a completely unspoilt nature shows itself in every word and look. Wherever Mr. Gladstone is remembered, there will also be remembrance of that pure and courageous spirit which was the guiding star of his fortunes, and the good angel of his house.

Is it not a trifle anomalous, says the Orillia Packet, that while he is still in the flesh at his Brockville home, the "History of Canada," published in 1868 by that veteran journalist, John McMillen, should be included among the rare works of which a copy may be obtained of Henry Stevens, Son & Stiles, the antiquarian booksellers, of 39 Great Russell Street, London, England?

It was reported to the recent General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland that their congregations now number 572, with 664 ministers and missionaries in active work. The church membership in communicants amounts to 106,630, and the total sum contributed for all objects during the year ending March 31, 1900, was £211,430; an increase of £14,574 on the previous year.

"Bamboo manna" (in Sanscrit "Tvak-kshira," or "ark milk," or "Vansa-Sarkara," or "bamboo sugar") is a manna-like, sweet exudation from bamboo stems. It has recently occurred in the Central Provinces of India. The natives eat the gum with relish, and it is curious that this "manna" has appeared for the first time in these forests during the greatest famine known to the Central Provinces.

In the new edition of Mr. Collingwood's excellent life of John Ruskin, a sentence is added which states that Ruskin was baptised on the 20th February, 1810, by the Rev. Mr. Boyd. As a correspondent of the "Presbyterian" points out this Mr. Boyd was evidently the Rev. James Boyd, minister of the Caledonian Presbyterian church, Cross street, and father of the celebrated A. H. K. B.

Considerable interest has been aroused recently by the spectacle of a "gentleman in khaki" in attendance upon the Prince of Wales. It is perhaps not generally known that the gentleman in question is Colonel Lucas, an extra aide-de-camp to his Royal Highness, representing the Imperial Yeomanry, for which he is also Deputy Adjutant-General, and he wears the popular khaki uniform by the specially expressed wish of the Prince.

In connection with the alterations now being made in the High Street frontage of Edinburgh Municipal Buildings, some interesting relics have been disclosed in the little chamber where Hugh Miller wrote his editorials and corrected his proofs while editor of the *Witness* newspaper. Sixteen of the most productive years of Hugh Miller's life were spent on the *Witness* for which Peter Bayne estimates he wrote one thousand articles.

In China, far up the Yangtze valley, the natives dislike British cotton goods and prefer the product of their own looms, one reason being that the latter always run in widths of fifteen inches which cut without waste for their purposes; another, that the stuff is more than four times stouter. The Japanese, however, are producing a cloth much like the Chinese and are winning a market for it. There is further objection to British goods that they are often packed in un- lucky colours, and to prints that the designs are inartistic and badly printed.

It was considered that when in his prime Dr. Storr was the foremost master of sustained eloquence in America. As a rhetorician he scarcely had a superior in the world. In 1881 he was presented with a testimonial of \$35,000 on the thirty-fifth anniversary of his pastorate, while his golden jubilee was commemorated very shortly before his death by a week of general public rejoicing in Brooklyn. He went to that city at the age of twenty-five, when it was only a big village. He long since became a foremost leader in the Congregationalist denomination.

The Rev. Dr. Black, of Inverness, who has been preaching in connection with the Rev. J. I. Mackay's anniversary at Hull, is described by a local paper as a "ruddy, elderly man, with clubby cheeks and whitened, short-cut hair, with a Bull than a conventional Scotsman." The writer evidently does not know that Dr. Black is an Irishman. His sermon is described as a thoughtful, well-reasoned and well-delivered discourse, "rising at times into moments of eloquence;" but this style of preaching, the writer thinks, is "not adapted for the multitude."

In connection with the anti-foreign and anti-Christian feeling, which undoubtedly are considerable factors in the present state of things in China, it is curious to note that the Chinese of modern days entertain misconceptions of Christianity which coincide almost incredibly with those held by the old Romans. Professor R. K. Douglas in his history of China, in Mr. Fisher Unwin's "Story of the Nations" series, tells us that one of the massacres was mainly due to a pamphlet called "Death Blow to Corrupt Doctrines," wherein the worship of the Christians is described in terms agreeing almost word for word with a passage in Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire."

The most notable case of eviction in the history of Canada since the expulsion of the Acadians from Grand Pre, which furnished the poet Longfellow with the subject of his poem "Evangeline," was practically closed a few weeks ago, when the evicted residents of Anticosti Island, numbering sixty souls, reached Quebec, having abandoned their struggle with M. Menier, the French chocolate manufacturer, who has purchased the Island. The evicted inhabitants are proceeding to the North West territories, where the government has provided them with farming lands. Mr. John Stubbart, a wealthy lobster packer, is now the only man remaining on Anticosti Island, and he announces his intention of fighting M. Menier to the end.

In the *United Presbyterian Magazine* for June, the life of Mrs. Fry, of prison reform fame, is sketched under the head of Notable Conversions. One sentence may be quoted. To one of her daughters she said very emphatically shortly be-

fore her death. "My dear Rachel, I can say one thing, since my heart was touched at seventeen years old, I believe I never have wakened from sleep, in sickness or in health, by day or by night, without my first waking thought being, how best I might serve my Lord." The fear of death which had oppressed her since childhood, was now wholly removed, and she said: "I know my foundation to be sure. I feel the rock always underneath me." Her last words were: "O my dear Lord, help and keep Thy servant."

Dr. Monro Gibson recently completed a twenty years pastorate of St. John's Wood, an important charge in London. Referring to the same he mentioned that the last year was the most successful in the history of St. John's Wood Church. Dr. Monro Gibson, although Scotch by birth, is looked upon as a Canadian. He took his theological training and graduated at Knox. While minister of Erskine Church, Montreal, he married a daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Wilkes. Subsequently he was invited to a large Presbyterian Church in Chicago; from whence, after a successful pastorate of several years, he was called to St. John's Wood, where his ministry is greatly valued. In England Dr. Gibson takes a foremost position as a preacher, while as a public-spirited citizen he exerts a powerful influence, which is steadily growing. Mr. James Gibson of this city, a worthy elder in St. Andrew's Church, is a brother of the minister of St. John's Wood Church. Another brother is a prominent lawyer in Toronto.

A few days ago Lady Henry Somerset, speaking at Wolverhampton, declared that the drink traffic had "no politics, no philanthropy, and no outlook, save the making of money." "The Trade" organ professed its astonishment at this charge, and demands an explanation. Lady Henry Somerset has replied, reiterating her statement, and supplementing it with the following stinging words: "I am perfectly aware that individual members of the trade have given of their abundance large sums to hospitals, orphanages and other charities; but to my mind not all the gold in the Rand, nor all the diamonds in the De Beers mine, could compensate to the nation for the loss it yearly sustains by the immeasurable evil of the drink traffic. * * * My gall rises at the rich brewers in parliament and out of it, who plant these poison shops for the sake of their million-making trade, while probably their family are figuring somewhere as refined philanthropists, or devout evangelicals and ritualists."

The death, at the Kingston hospital, of Rev. Prof. Mowat, D.D., of Queen's, took place on 15th inst. He had been a sufferer for years from a painful complaint, and lately it was found desirable to perform a delicate operation. The most serious operation occurred on Tuesday. It was successfully performed and the obstruction removed, but the exhaustion and shock was too great for the enfeebled constitution. His last days were peaceful. Deceased was a younger brother of Sir Oliver Mowat, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. He was a native of Kingston, born in 1825, the son of the late John Mowat, of Cathnes-shire, Scotland, in early days a soldier of the Empire. In 1845 Dr. Mowat graduated in arts at Kingston among the first students. He attended Edinburgh University, and took theology. In 1848 he became assistant to Rev. Dr. Machar, of St. Andrew's, Kingston. In 1850 he was called to St. Andrew's, Niagara. In 1857 he became a professor in theology at Queen's. In 1881 he was honored with a D. D. by Glasgow University. Dr. Mowat was connected with Queen's University during the regime of every principal from Dr. Cook to Dr. Grant. Deceased was a man of accurate scholarship, of conscientious devotion to duty, and of high personal worth, one whose loving, gracious example was an inspiration to the young men under his instruction. He was a vigorous preacher, a winning conversationalist, and an honored citizen. On May 2d, this year, the Kingston Presbytery celebrated his jubilee as a Presbyterian minister.