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NOTE AND COMMENT

It is reported that no less than \$15,000 has been offered by a baseball manager for a star pitcher. And yet the country preacher at \$850 a year would not change places with him, even if he could.

Our neighbors of the Presbyterian Church North, have placed themselves on record as opposed to bi-ennial or triennial meetings of their General Assembly, although a charge had many strong advocates.

Restless Japan, progressive Japan is about engaging in an attempt to bring its treaty arrangements with the nations into accord, and into line with the movements of the times. Japan is a nation, apparently, of statesmen. When the whole Japanese people shall have learned the power of Christianity, when the moral and social code of the Holy Scriptures shall have become the basis for Japanese law, the island empire will be one of the greatest nations of the globe. Remarks the Philadelphia Westminister.

In the course of an address at Liverpool, England, on consumption, Dr. Buchanan enlarged on the dangers of men taking strength exercises too violently. He condemned the practice of a man who went in for jumps, long races, football playing and heavy weight-lifting. Such a man would go to pieces with consumption where half a dozen men who lived more moderately would not be affected. These strong men tricks ruined and exhausted the body and made a man die before his time. He did not believe that there was any man who rowed in his 'varsity eight who lived to be an old man. The men who lived longest were those who followed comparatively restful occupations, such as judges and parsons. People who wished to guard against consumption should lead simple, and healthy lives and strengthen themselves in every moderate way. Fresh air and plenty of it, with good breathing exercises were the best methods.

Seldom has the world witnessed such a gathering of distinguished leaders from all lands and from all the nobler walks of life, and certainly in modern times, never such a comprehensive Christian council, as the late Edinburgh Congress. It could not be expected that this heterogeneous and ardent body of men could be at one on all matters before them. Time and again it has become evident that the Conference was a composition of the most combustible elements. It could not be otherwise when men of many races and creeds, of diverse view-points and aspirations, are planted down in the same room for ten days, engaged upon grave and delicate problems, and compelled to speak out their whole souls; Explosive materials are there in plenty, and although a few sparks from time to time have fallen upon the tinder, we have been happily preserved from disasters. When the dark-skinned sons of the East brush aside as so much rubbish some of our most cherished theological and ecclesiastical positions, and boldly give utterance to the wrongs and the rights and the aspirations of their own nations; when a High Churchman declares that the constitution and orders of the Church must be given a foremost place in missionary propaganda, it is manifest that the atmosphere is highly charged. But in spite of these incidents, there was never a jarring note, never a trace of bitterness. The all-prevailing brotherhood engendered by loyalty to Christ and His last command overcame all. Truly, practical Christianity is a powerful solvent of racial and creedal divisions!

Probably the largest gift ever made to a Presbyterian Institution, is a legacy of \$10,000,000 felt by Isaac C. Wyman, of Salem, Mass., to Princeton University. Mr. Wyman was a graduate of Princeton, and died at the age of 82. The money is to be used for the purpose of a "graduate school."

The follow-up campaign of the Laymen's Missionary Movement is essential. Reports from seventeen southern cities of the United States, in which conventions were held, show that these cities gave a total of \$211,696 last year to foreign missions, and have subscribed \$366,691, for next year. Four cities, in which conventions were not held, subscribed a total of \$66,989 annually, against \$40,114 last year.

Count Zeppelin's great airship, which was to run regular trips carrying passengers, and had made an experimental trip of three hundred miles in nine hours, was totally wrecked a few days later. During a storm, the ship became unmanageable and, after drifting several hundred miles at great speed, came down in a forest of pine trees. The passengers and crew, thirty-three persons, climbed down by rope ladders.

Germany has a population of 64,000,000, and spends annually \$715,000,000 for alcoholic drinks, or more than twice the cost of the Army and Navy; more than four times the cost of workmen's insurance, and about five times as much as the total outlay for elementary education. When will the Germans, who pride themselves so much on the learning of their cultured classes, and the industry of their mechanics, do away with this shameful waste?

One of the results of the flood in Paris is a changed attitude toward the McCall Missions. Where there was at best only a sullen permission to hold the services, there is now a cordial appreciation of the good work done in the time of sore need. In several of the McCall Halls, soup kitchens were established where many were kept from actual starvation. Especially is this change of mind noticed at Ivory, where the Mayor celebrates "civil baptisms" once a month, at which time the parents promise that their children shall not receive any kind of religious instruction. The religious attitude of the community may be inferred from this institution. The Council now seems to be willing to aid the Mission as a result of the practical aid furnished at the Hall.

The Dean of Norwich has thrown precedent to the winds in a defense of King George against "two accusations brought against him by that part of society which is not society at all." He says that the King is sometimes accused of insobriety, and then declares that this is false. "On the contrary, he is a man who, even from the point of view of health, has to be abstemious. He does not desire to be anything else." The Dean continues: "The other accusation is still more unworthy, namely, that prior to his marriage to the present Queen he had what is called a secret or morganatic marriage, with children by it. That is absolutely, root and branch, an untruth. The King is a man who, with a wife of like disposition as himself, has been wont during his leisure to sit in his garden with his young children about him, as any of us might." This defence of the King has been criticised on the ground of good taste, but the rumors were undoubtedly in circulation, and even in print. It is a satisfaction to have them contradicted by a man who knows.

The succession of King George to the throne (says a writer) may revive among men the wearing of a beard, even although the late King's example was not widely followed in this respect. There are one or two very young men who have already made themselves conspicuous in this respect for a good many months now. They seem to enjoy the shocked surprise of friends and acquaintances who stumble across them for the first time in their early Victorian disguise; and are deaf to all remonstrances, even from members of their own family.

We confine the insane and the epileptic and isolate contagiously diseased, but permit the drunkard absolute freedom of indulgence. Yet when we suggest the rational thing to do, the saloon apologist cries out against encroachment upon personal liberty. Individual liberty of conscience, thought and action, within certain limitations, is the priceless heritage of every citizen, and it is a principle that should be guarded with jealous vigilance. It is the ideal political state of man, but is subject to one other principle—the comfort, virtue and welfare of the community. Absolute personal freedom is impossible. It is the dream of the anarchist only. Wherever there is a law, and law is necessary for our existence, there are checks and limitations of personal liberty.

Apropos of Mr John Burn's rise to £5,000, the London correspondent of the Liverpool Courier recalls some statements by the President of the Local Government Board, in addition to his declaration, "I never knew a man who was worth more than £500 a year." When the engineer of the London County Council was appointed, some twenty years ago, in some discussion that took place, Mr. Burns caused much laughter by asking why "that man" (the engineer) should get £30 a week more than he himself got. In 1893 Mr. Burns declared that he "had not the slightest desire for office," and that "the fishes of office stink." Now, Mr. Burns is in office at £100 a week, says the correspondent of the Belfast Witness. And why not? Evidently the British people, with great unanimity, think "Honest John" well worth the increased salary, his own modest value to the country to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Writing of the Edinburgh Mission Congress, a correspondent of the Belfast Witness says: "Among the best speakers at the Conference were natives of Japan, Korea, China and India. They used perfect English, and uttered it in most cases with wonderful clearness and distinctness. The Rev. Dong King-en, in native costume and pig-tail, with black round cap and a red button on the top, dark-blue close-fitting robe and shoes with white facings, of typical racial face, and wearing spectacles, rejoiced the heart of his audience by declaring that Chinese Christians were coming to look upon the Church, not as a foreign and alien faith, but as their very own. They would make it indigenous to the soil, self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating. Similar declarations were made by the Hon. Hun Chi Ho, ex-Minister of Education in Korea; the Rev. President Harada, of Japan; and the Rev. V. S. Azariah, of India. The Rev. K. Iwaka, a Japanese delegate, appeared in the role of a militant Presbyterian. It was quite refreshing to hear that "the Church of Christ in Japan is Presbyterian in form, and has made up its mind to develop on Presbyterian lines." Three missions of other Communions are at work in the country, but they have recently accepted a scheme of affiliation with the native Church.