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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The new Hebrides have become famous through the story of John G. Paton. His work began at Tanna in 1858, and no Christian Endeavor Society should be beyond the reach of those wonderful triumphs of the Gospel as told by Dr. Paton.

Spurgeon once said to a young preacher, his kinsman, "William, never use a hard word when you write or speak if you can possibly find an easy one to express the thought." It was good advice, and his own power was largely due to the extreme simplicity of his words and style.

The average income of the 340 congregations of the Presbyterian Church in England is 700 pounds sterling, and the average membership 250. The communicants have increased from 51,015, in 1876, to 85,215; and the available number of sittings from 134,145 to 175,682. In 1876, the value of the Church's property was 973,485 pounds sterling; today it is estimated at 2,434,260 pounds sterling.

The difficulty of getting suitable men as Synod evangelists in the English Presbyterian Church has of late years been increasing, as ministers are unwilling to leave their congregations for the length of time required. It is now proposed greatly to increase the number of missions, so that one or two missions at the most in the year will be all that will be required of each minister.

Liquor sellers in many places in this province have decided to raise their prices. We see no objection to this. The man that spends all the money he can get his hands on for drink will be so much the better off the less he gets for his money, and the more moderate man may drink a little less when prices are doubled. Of course, no one ever supposed that liquor cost anything near like what was paid for it even under the old prices.

Not long before his death the late Cardinal Manning said: "For thirty-five years I have been priest and bishop in London, and now I approach my eightieth year, and have learned some lessons; and the fact is this: the chief bar to the working of the Holy Spirit of God in the souls of men and women, is intoxicating liquor. I know of no antagonist to the Good Spirit more direct, more subtle, more stealthy, more ubiquitous than intoxicating drink."

Mr. Robert E. Speer, of the American Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, has compiled a table which shows the rate per member of contributions made last year by the principal churches in the United States to the work of evangelizing the heathen. The showing is as follows: Methodist, 45 cents per capita per annum; Episcopalians, 48 cents; Baptists, 63 cents; Presbyterians, \$1.04; Congregationalists, \$1.11; Reformed, \$1.25; United Presbyterians, \$1.77.

The Torrey-Alexander meetings in Philadelphia have come to a close. Five thousand converts in all are reported, and it is said that nothing like the present religious awakening has been seen since the Moody and Sankey meetings in the seventies. The crowds attending were so large that they could not all be accommodated, even in monster overflow meetings. Dr. Torrey announces himself as deeply gratified at the results. The Ottawa committee are perfecting all new preparations for the visit of the Evangelists to the city.

The Rev. Dr. Campbell Morgan has promised to preach the sermon at the World's Sunday School Convention at Rome, to be held in May next. Plans for the holding of the great convention are being pushed through. The Central Office in Boston intimates that there is every prospect of a large contingent going from America.

The London Times' annual summing up of church statistics may be taken as, in the main, fairly accurate. According to it, the Congregational churches have made a net increase for the past year of 16,434, having now a membership of 479,112. The Baptists have gained 31,752, and report a present membership of 426,563. The Methodists have 18,385 places of worship, with 954,204 members and nearly twice as many Sunday-school scholars. There is no data to hand to show the increase in the Presbyterian body during the past year, but in the past thirty years it has gained seventy-nine churches and increased its membership about sixty per cent.

The Mormons, whatever their faults, are certainly "hustlers." They claim to have 2,000 missionaries in the field, 1,400 of them being in the Southern States. They also say that they have made 20,000 converts in a year. We fancy that either this estimate is a large one or that some of their converts do not stay made. They are working in many foreign countries. At a recent conference in Berlin 125 missionaries at work throughout the German empire were in attendance. The Mormons are "worth watching" wherever they are; they are also worthy of imitation in some things also. The Mormon question is interesting to Canadians because of the large colony of this peculiar people now settled in Alberta.

The future of Protestantism may be a little brighter than that of Romanism in France, says the Christian Observer. Still there are features of uncertainty in regard to Protestantism. First of all, Protestantism is numerically weak, and by no means rich in this world's goods. Perhaps not more than two of the forty-five millions in France are Protestant. In addition, the Protestants are divided into several bodies. The Reformed Church which had connection with the State, is divided between the liberal and conservative types of doctrine. The Free Reformed Church is quite weak, yet will not feel the recent legislation so much because it never received State aid. The McAll Mission and other Protestant bodies have been at work in France for some time. Still for a long time Protestantism will have a struggle in France.

A summary of the results of missions to the islands may not be amiss. Heathenism with its most degrading and superstitious observance has practically disappeared from every island and group to which the Gospel has been carried. Wherever the Gospel has come, civilization and commerce have followed in its train. That civilization alone could not accomplish this result is seen from the influence of non-Christian civilization in the rum traffic which, in spite of legislation prohibiting it, is carried on. Wherever the Gospel has gone education has followed. The chapel and school house stand by side over the wide Pacific. Christianity has endeavored to secure a trained native ministry, and colleges and institutions are found everywhere. Statistics are not wanting to show the wonderful miracles of grace upon these islands and upon individuals. God has visited the isles with His salvation.

It is not optional whether you pay for the support of the Gospel and the ministers thereof, God has made that as much an obligation as praying. Even the ox that trod out the corn was not to be muzzled. He that feeds a flock may be expected to live of the flock—it is his right.

Western Christian Advocate: Intelligence, like wealth, is often acquired by long and determined effort. Unlike riches it can not be inherited. Some may be fortunate in inheriting a good start, but information and the practice of thought

United Presbyterian: Some churches are trying to save the world with the devil's tools, and when the tools wear out they get a new set, but somehow the Lily of the Valley droops and the Rose of Sharon fails to bloom. No one can cultivate the Lord's field with Satan's methods.

Presbyterian Witness: God for us all, and we all need one another. It is thus life is sweetened and brightened until the last. All bitterness, all strife of classes, all greed of unjust gain must surely be denigrated; and the golden rule must be followed, the rule of doing to others as we would have others do to us.

Herald and Presbyter:—Heaven and the everlasting life at God's right hand are the pleasures that are to be the consummation of the Christian's life of faith and love. The soul that hungrily and thirsts for the things of God shall know what it is to be spiritually filled and satisfied.

Herald and Presbyter: "Enoch walked with God three hundred years." Such a high and holy walk, with such a divine companion, continued without any weariness for three hundred years, is a miracle of divine grace, of which we have no similar record. The age was an age of apostasy. There was little to sustain and much to injure his piety; but he waited upon Jehovah—he walked with God, and his religion suffered no declension.

The Foreign Missions report occupies 118 pages of the newly-issued Synod's "Blue-book" of the Presbyterian church in England. The growth of the work in China has been very encouraging. The communicants in 1855 numbered 25; in 1876 they had increased to 1,974; at the end of 1905 they had grown to 9,573. The number of mission agents has increased fivefold since 1876, and the number of congregations (now 306) fourfold. The native pastors, evangelists, and teachers have increased from 49 to 385. The work is evidently interesting, fruitful, and full of promise.

Maritime Baptist: Quite possibly ministers do not always do as much as they might do to encourage and develop the helpfulness of their people. The pastor has often a large field for the exercise of generalship. Was it not Mr. Moody who said that it is much better for a minister to set ten men to work than to do the work of ten men himself? To be able to make the conditions favorable for helpfulness on the part of his people, to set them and keep them at work without friction, is for the pastor one of the highest tests of ability. But it should not be forgotten that, whether or not the pastor possesses large powers of generalship, there will always be many opportunities for helping him and for serving the cause of which the great Captain of our salvation is the Head and the Inspiration.

Better a sling and a few stones from the brook than the armor of Saul to one who knows not how to use it.