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NOTE AND COMMENT

The Presbyterian Witness of the 9th March contains the obituaries of eight aged persons, whose combined ages aggregate 646 years, the youngest being 73 and the oldest 91 years.

Mrs. Hugh Gunn, of Earlton, N. S., entered her 100th year on the 2nd of March. The Presbyterian Witness says she is hale and hearty, and her faculties are well preserved, so that she appears to enjoy life as well as many a woman half a century younger.

It is a common mistake to assume that Australia is a country destitute of large rivers. On the contrary, it possesses one of the longest in the world, viz., the Darling, which is navigable for 2,345 miles, placing it third in rank among rivers of the world.

Among Babylonian discoveries must now be numbered a map which was made earlier than the days of Abraham. A Babylonian explores the then known world and makes a map to show what he has seen. The world is surrounded with a salt river. Babylon is in the centre of the world.

It is good to notice that the horrors of the bull-ring are not pleasing to all the Mexicans, and that an active campaign has been inaugurated in that country with a view to terminating what is felt to be a disgrace to their people. The movement was started in the city of Mexico, and petitions for its abolition are being widely signed. Spain has not yet progressed so far.

A Methodist minister who has been prominently connected with Christian work in the Philippines, since they came under the control of the United States, charges that the present Governor of the islands, discriminates in many ways against the Protestant denominations. He gives preference and privileges to the Roman Catholics, to the prejudice of the others. In both official and social ways he displays his partiality for the Roman Church and its schemes.

The three hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the English Christian Church in America is to be observed by the Protestant Episcopal Church by the raising of a great missionary thank offering. When the convention meets this fall in Richmond, Va., three hundred years will have passed since the first communion was celebrated in Jamestown, in 1607, thirteen years before the Pilgrims landed in New England, and in commemoration of that event the men of the Episcopal Church are asked to unite in this great missionary offering.

The following illustration was given by one of the native evangelists at the recent workers' conference of Ikeda, near Tokushima. The subject under discussion was, "The Guidance of Workers by the Holy Spirit." The leader said: "I am only a horse and God is the driver. Sometimes he drives me fast, sometimes slow. Sometimes he beats me, sometimes he praises me. Sometimes he feeds me well, and at other times not so well. But I am glad that God is the driver." Strange as this illustration may seem to us in English, it had great force among the Japanese workers. Would that we had more Spirit-driven men.

After sixty-three years' service in the ministry of the Presbyterian church, Rev. John Cameron of Bridgetown, N. S., has passed away to his reward. He was one of the forty-two ministers who participated in the Presbyterian union accomplished in Nova Scotia in 1860. There were forty congregations in that church then, but Mr. Cameron lived to see the union of the Presbyterians of Canada from ocean to ocean with 1,500 congregations. Of those who took part with him in the union of 1860 only ten ministers remain, and they are all in the eighties.

The immigration authorities in Washington, aided by English detectives, claim they have found out a scheme by which agents of Southern cotton factories are inducing English mill girls to come over to that country under contract to work in Southern mills in violation of the alien labor law and in conditions that amount to peonage. The scheme was revealed by two girls escaping from a Southern factory and making their way to the home of relatives in Massachusetts. The girls had come from England under promise of good wages, but they claim that their pay was small and that they were treated like slaves by their Southern employers. They also claim that over 500 girls have already been landed in this country under similar promises.

Archbishop Keane, of the Roman Catholic diocese of Dubuque, Iowa, has been and is striving for better observance of Sabbath in his city, and has not had the help from his parishioners which he desired and deserved. At a public meeting recently he openly denounced them, especially the influential and prominent people, for their indifference and cowardice. He is quoted as saying: "Pass it around, agitate it and even if we cannot get the professional men to lay aside their cowardice and come forward, we will keep at it until public opinion will compel the closing of the saloons on Sabbath. If I could only have the power and use it, how soon would I see that it was done. I know I can't, I know that the bulk of the influence is against me. Shame that it should be so." Plain speaking like this is needed in many quarters.

Lord Stratheona, the Canadian High Commissioner, a man whose Christian and patriotic generosity is so well known, has been extending his benevolence into the realm of archaeology. A cable despatch from London to the New York Sun says: "Sir William Ramsay will soon go to Asia Minor to undertake on a much greater scale than has hitherto been attempted, investigations which are expected to throw much light on ancient history, especially Biblical history of the time of Abraham. Extended work is made possible by Lord Stratheona's gift of \$2,500 a year for five years." Believing that Aryan history had its beginning in Asia Minor, and that the people among whom they are to be discovered were the people called the Hittites in the Bible, or the children of Heth, from whom Abraham bought a piece of land to make a grave for his family, Sir William undertakes the commission with determination and hope. He says: "I shall not be satisfied until the document recording the sale of that piece of land is discovered. It would be a clay tablet, but would be practically imperishable, and there are thousands of those tablets recording the sales of that kind."

An unique idea is propounded by Dr. Horton, of London. Preaching on the great missionary opportunity of the present, especially in China, Dr. Horton made two noteworthy suggestions. The first was that the time had come to send out missionaries, not merely as educators and preachers, but distinctly as journalists who should aim at influencing and enlightening the nation through the regular Chinese newspapers. Further, Dr. Horton thinks the time has come to approach such nations as the Chinese and Japanese not as individuals, but as peoples. The Mikado is said to have been seriously contemplating the establishment of Christianity after the fashion of the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century, and the Pope has already approached him with characteristic offers of temporal advantage if he will acknowledge the papal supremacy. All the protestant churches, Dr. Horton thinks, should, setting aside their minor differences, present a united and impressive appeal to the nations of China and Japan.

The fact that though the Jewish population of New York city has trebled during the last 20 years, while the membership of the synagog has not even held its own, has been the cause of a new movement in that city, called the Free Synagog, under the leadership of Dr. Stephen S. Wise, founder of the Federation of American Zionists. The new movement contemplates yielding to what is felt to be the necessity of present-day conditions so far as to adopt Sunday as the day of worship, but it distinctly disavows any attempt at the "gradual conversion of Jewish men and women to any form of Christianity." One feature of the program, according to Dr. Wise, is to interpret the Jew to himself and to bring the message of Jewish life and letters to the world, to help the Jew to rightly prize his ancient heritage and the non-Jew to understand the sufficient reason for Israel's fealty. The "inexorable moral imperative is the essential of the synagog," and this is to be the core of the teaching of the new movement. There is a reaching upward toward the Christian ideal without grasping the Christ.

"The Barbarities of Peace" is what Dr. Josiah Strong calls the awful death toll of the modern industries. He makes out an appalling case in a recent magazine article. According to his figures there are a total of 525,000 industrial accidents in the United States every year. This is terrible. It foots up about fifty per cent. more than the entire number of killed and wounded in the Russian-Japanese war. Dr. Strong says that last year as many persons were killed on American railroads every thirty-seven days, and as many wounded every twelve days as were killed and wounded in the 2,561 engagements of the Philippine war. "At that rate," he says, "we might have continued the war for seventy-eight years before equaling the record of our railroads in a twelve-month." But only one-fifth of the accident losses occur on the railroads. "We might carry on," says Dr. Strong, "a half-dozen Philippine wars for three-quarters of a century with no larger number of total casualties than take place yearly in our peaceful industries." This is a frightful indictment. Dr. Strong is right when he declares that "this industrial slaughter is utter utter waste—wasted resources, wasted anguish, wasted life."