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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The final meetings of the Standing Committees are being held in view of the near approach of the General Assembly and it is extremely gratifying to notice the satisfactory character of the reports in course of preparation. It will be found that these annual statements contain a record of faithful service upon which has been placed the seal of success. The past church year furnishes evidence of zeal and great-hearted enterprise in the several branches of church work and while much is yet lacking, much has been done for which to be humbly thankful.

Last week an instance of the satisfactory condition of affairs was furnished at the meeting of the Foreign Mission Committee (a prepared report of whose proceedings will be found on another page) when instead of a deficit a favorable balance was reported. Of course, as everyone having practical experience of Committee work knows, a balance at credit may not be a balance on the right side; that is to say, should the surplus be obtained at the expense, either of the efficiency or of the adequacy of the work, but there is no reason to suppose that the efficiency of the work in any department has been impaired. The missionaries report many encouraging experiences, and continued activity and they have reason to hope that the divine blessing has been freely bestowed on their labors. Nor is the Foreign Field the only one in which satisfactory progress has been made. As we have said, evidences of vitality are not wanting in connection with other departments. Home Missions,

for instance, have been receiving much sympathetic attention during this spring and the work of the Committee has impressed the Church with its importance and interest. Not only in new fields such as the Yukon, but at places nearer home, the work of the Home Mission Committee has elicited the approval of the Church. And so forth along the line, the inference being that large views are gaining ground with respect to the scope of the work of the Church as a whole and that an increasingly intelligent interest is being manifested therein.

A contributor in our columns recently—"R. F. McN";—in dealing with Talmudic traditions regarding the Religious Status of Jewish Women, status of Jewish women, in religious life, evokes the following retort from *The American Israelite*: "the traditional happy position of women in America is the lot of the Jewess to even a greater degree than of her Christian sister. If there is a man on the face of the earth who is the meek producer for his household, who works and plans incessantly, who stints himself in every way that his wife and daughters should live a life of ease and luxury, and who with it all is as meek as Moses before his better half, that man is the average Jewish-American husband. We can imagine the smile on the faces of our readers of both sexes as they read what we have quoted above."

The Churches in the United States are alive to the importance of having Christian medical men in the army and navy service during the war with Spain, and the International Medical Missionary Society are taking steps to procure men of avowed Christian principles for service in the hospital and ambulance corps. In a statement of the case prepared by the Society conclusive reasons are given showing the value to sick and dying men, far from home and the usual ministrations of religion, of Christian medical attendants. Could these reasons be read by the ladies of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, they would be confirmed in their opinion of the wisdom shown by their devoted band of leaders in making arrangements for sending Christian nurses to the Klondike. The object in both cases—the Cuban war and the Klondike miners—is the same, the bringing to the sufferers not only medical and physical attention, but spiritual comfort also. This can best be done, and often only be done, by those who, if they be earnest Christians, can and will minister to them in this double sense.

As showing the attitude of the better class of United States Journals towards a British-American entente, the following paragraph from an admirable article in the *New York Independent* will serve as a good illustration. It is very comforting to have the good wishes and hearty friendship of England. We count more on this friendship than on any other that could be offered to us. England alone may not be exactly master of the