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Note and Comment.

It has been resolved to set apart May 24th as Empire day in Australia and to introduce subjects in the schools relative thereto.

Mrs. Jennina Luke, author of the popular hymn, "I think when I read that sweet story of old," is past ninety years of age, and is living in England.

Mr. James Wright, the son-in-law of the late George Miller, and his successor as head of the famous orphanages at Bristol, has died at the age of 78. He has been associated with the work since 1859.

The United States Supreme Court has decided what is known as the Beef Trust case in favor of the Government and against the packers. It was a unanimous decision. The combination had attempted to monopolize commerce among the States.

W. R. Calder, once a Presbyterian minister, has been committed to stand trial at Sydney, N. S., for assault on his wife, a daughter of the late Hon. E. T. Moseley. Mr. Calder was retired from the ministry about three years ago. At that time he figured in a case before the church courts.

Fifty-nine persons perished as the result of an avalanche at Naesdal, north of Bergen, Norway, recently. A mass of rock was suddenly precipitated into Loenvand Lake, from the hills causing a giant wave twenty feet high, which swept the shores. Houses, people and cattle were deluged.

Dr. Albert Brunner, in his annual report of the patients received in 1902 at the hospitals for tuberculosis at Trieste, Italy, makes this statement: "Of 506 patients received during the year, 371 were inebriates, 133 moderate drinkers and only two total abstainers."

The last wish of General Garibaldi was that his body should be cremated and the ashes dispersed, but the Italian parliament refused to allow it. Now his son, Ricciotti Garibaldi, himself an old man, is demanding of the government that respect be shown to his father's wishes.

The Carleton, N.B., Free Baptist church celebrated its jubilee a few weeks ago. It was organized in 1855 with twenty-one members. During the 50 years of its existence it has had only three pastors, Rev. Jos. Noble, 1855-1857; Rev. G. A. Hartley, 1858-1903; Rev. R. W. Ferguson, 1902 to the present time.

Great Britain, next to the United States, now has the largest number of Christian Endeavor societies of any country in the world—more than 10,000. France has formed a national union. There are now more than 45,000 of the 65,000 societies in the United States and Canada, over 5,000 new societies having been formed within two years.

The new Premier of France, M. Rouvier, has announced the policy of the ministry. It includes the separation of Church and State, and a reduction of the military term of service. It follows in the main the policy of M. Combes, and differs from the latter mainly in condemning the system of spying on army officers. Indeed M. Combes himself condemned all this; but it having taken place under his administration, condemnation of the policy was not sufficient to save his ministry. M. Rouvier seems more inclined to support the Franco-Russian alliance than M. Combes, and in this respect represents the monarchial element in France. His reference to supporting the alliance was, however, greeted in the Chamber of Deputies with cries of "Down with the Czar"; and the demonstration was with difficulty suppressed.

Work on the new Campanile at Venice is being pushed as much as possible, and it is hoped that the entire structure will be completed by the spring of 1906. Examination of the remains of the fallen tower proved that the bricks had been used for various purposes at a previous stage, in arches, fortifications, tops of walls, towers, bridges, etc. The most important part was that they were not Venetian, but Roman bricks.

The next annual meeting of the Canadian Forestry association will be held at Quebec on Thursday and Friday, the 9th and 10th of March, in the municipal hall of that city. Some interesting papers have been arranged for. Among the contributors will be A. P. Low of the geological survey, formerly commander of the Neptune Arctic expedition. He will give an address upon Northern Quebec and Labrador.

The Chicago Tribune has been making an estimate of the liquor bill in the city in which it is published, resulting in the statement that the sum paid for liquor licenses amounts to \$3,250,000 per year. The number of saloons licensed last year was 7,806. The Tribune says further: If we had no saloons, we might not need to spend \$3,250,000 a year on a police force, and \$100,000 per annum for the Bidwell. Nor would we need a "D.T." ward at the county hospital.

The Lutheran Observer puts the question of a religious revival in a nut-shell in the following words: "If we want a revival, and want it in God's way, pledging ourselves to it, willing to be divinely led wherever God will have us, and to be used as he will use us, praying for it and working for it, it will come as surely as Pentecost came, and as surely as the Welsh movement is working the will of God and the salvation of men."

The Casket, a Catholic journal, non-partisan in politics published at Antigonish N.S. devotes a good deal of space to the temperance question, having a special department edited by the Grand Secretary of the Catholic Total Abstinence League of the Cross for the Diocese. A recent issue of The Casket informs us that during 1902 the paper will contain, quarterly, a list of the branches of the League and the number of members in good standing. The League workers are undertaking a vigorous campaign for the purpose of extending the membership and influence of the organization.

Scientists confirm the reports which have been in circulation recently to the effect that the mystery surrounding the Sphinx has been solved. At the Smithsonian Institution it was said that the stone enigma of the desert is nothing more than a gigantic image of Ra-Harmachis, the god of morning and the conquerer of darkness; hence it faces the east. This discovery was made recently by means of inscriptions that were found on the walls of a temple which was unearthed by excavators.

Under the new Sunday law of Geneva, Switzerland, every employer, whatever the character of the industry, is required to give his employees one day of rest in seven, without any reduction in wages. Further, once in two weeks this rest day must be Sunday. Heretofore, only State officers were sure of a weekly rest, while railway and postal employees were allowed twenty-six Sundays in the year. It has taken seven years of agitation with much arduous labor and many defeats before the general council of Geneva passed the above law.

The Belfast Witness states that Mr. Blumer, one of the chief shipbuilders in Sunderland, Eng., has voluntarily withdrawn from the firm of Messrs. J. Blumer and company, while in the prime of life, in order to devote his undivided time and energy to religious and social work. Seeing the alienation of working men from the Churches, Mr. Blumer started some years ago a men's Bible-class, which has grown to great

size, and religious interest. It has now occurred to him to devote his whole time and energy to spiritual, moral, and social work.

Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, who leads the Presbyterian evangelistic work in the United States, says: "The revival spirit is deepening in our country with each day. I have not in all my ministry seen such awakening. The distinguished feature has been the unparalleled interest of men in spiritual things. Men everywhere seem to be hungry for the Gospel. The Young Men's Christian Association stands in a unique position to lead in this great work. I prophesy that we are on the eve of the greatest awakening the world has yet known."

There are more Christians by far in the world than say in 1804—a hundred years ago; more Bible readers, Bible teachers, Bible translations, and Christian missionaries. Any one of the leading churches does more this year for the diffusion of Christian religion than all Protestant Christendom was doing in 1804. There was not very much being accomplished at that date by the unreformed churches of Greece or Rome. Even relatively to the population of Great Britain and America avowed and active Christians are more numerous than they were a century ago, and the disciples of Christ are not only more numerous but also more progressive and liberal and enterprising.

An American religious journal speaks of the state of Iowa as "not a very healthy region, financially during the past twelve months." Forty banks were wrecked by those in charge, and their surplus was dissipated. Twelve millions of dollars were lost to depositors. Ten bank cashiers died by their own hands. We do not know how many trusted men absconded. Most of the trouble arose from the "get rich quick" idea. We have had no bank failures in this country, largely because our banks do not encourage the "get rich quick" idea; but if the inside facts could be got from many stock speculation transactions it would probably be found that a good many people have been badly victimized by such methods of getting rich quick.

The prospectus of the Presbyterian Temperance Union in Great Britain has been issued. The bases of the union are set forth as follows: "Our aim shall be to set the social drinking customs and the drink traffic before our fellows as giant evils, destructive to men, and dishonouring to God. We shall seek to bring the whole moral force of the Church into direct opposition to this traffic." The forces to be used are—(1) Personal, (2) ecclesiastical, (3) civil. These three forces are to be used by the members of the union to effect, if possible, what has been so often attempted, win the freedom of the individual, the Church, and the State from the clutches of drink, and in this crusade all good and true men will wish the union well.

It appears from official returns recently issued a British relative to alcoholic beverages, that in 1903 there was a considerable falling-off in the consumption of beer and spirits as compared with 1902. The amount consumed in 1902 was 30.3 gallons per head of the population, in 1903 it was 29.7. In 1899 it was 32.6 gallons. Belgium stands at the top of the list in regard to consumption, with a percentage of 47.7 gallons, the United Kingdom is second, Germany third, and Denmark fourth in order. As regards the consumption of spirits, it stood at 1.03 gallons in 1902; in 1903 it had fallen to .50 gallons, and Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Sweden, France, and the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom derives a larger proportion of revenue from the trade than any other country—namely, 32 per cent. In the United States it was 20 per cent.; in Holland, 10 per cent.; in Russia, Sweden, Belgium, and France, 18 per cent.; in Denmark, 15 per cent.; in Norway, 12 per cent.; in Austria-Hungary, 11 per cent.; and in Germany, 5 per cent.