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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Rev. Dr. C. A. Briggs' severance from the Presbyterian church has not come as a surprise, the opinion having prevailed for some time that he contemplated leaving for pastures new and more congenial. Professor H. P. Smith having accepted a Congregationalist Professorship, it was supposed that Dr. Briggs would enter the Congregational communion overtures, to that effect having been made to him. But he has chosen the Protestant Episcopal body and has been confirmed by Bishop Henry C. Potter and is a candidate for orders. His letter of withdrawal from the Presbyterian church has been sent to the Clerk of Presbytery, but it is not thought as probable that he will resign his Professorship at Union Theological Seminary.

Edison commands respect in the world of practical men as a clear headed investigator of nature's laws, controlled by common sense. But **Edison and the Supernatural** evidently the more he looks into nature the more plainly he sees the supernatural also. He has recently made the following most remarkable statement: "No person can be brought into close contact with the mysteries of nature, or make a study of chemistry, without being convinced that behind it all there is a supreme intelligence. I am convinced of that, and I think that I could—perhaps I may sometime—demonstrate the existence of such an intelligence through the operations of those mysterious laws with the certainty of a demonstration in mathematics." No theologian could speak more strongly than that

or say what would be more to the point. We commend it to the attention of those who are inclined to cherish doubts.

The World's Third Sunday School Convention is to be held in London July 11th-15th, and special arrangements are being made to induce as large a delegation as possible to go from the United States and Canada. The Cunard Steamer Catalonia has been chartered to sail from Boston on June 29th and a return rate of \$90, is offered also special hotel terms in London during the Convention. Full information may be obtained by writing to Warren P. Lauders, Room 64, 110 Boyston St. Boston, Mass.

There are now altogether six colored Presbyteries organized in the Southern States, embracing 56 **Colored Presbyteries in the South.** ministers and 58 churches. Owing to the policy adopted by the Southern church of encouraging such separate organizations the number is likely to increase. They are still, however, a long way from self-support and will require to be freely aided by their white brethren if they are to maintain their existence. Last year they raised altogether less than \$2,000 for the support of ordinances among themselves.

The *Belfast Witness* is an unusually well-informed paper, and the editor is seldom found napping even in matters relating to America. Its contributors are not always so well posted. In a recent number a writer gives a graphic picture of the oppressed condition of the peasantry in the Russian empire. "Their condition," he says, "is not enviable, and consequently many are seeking a home in the far West, preferring to spend their lives cutting down trees in Manitoba and elsewhere (as there they are at least free) rather than submit to the Tsar's despotic rule." He is correct about the freedom in Manitoba as many foreign immigrants know, but it is time even the Russian peasantry understood that the prairies are destitute of trees. Those who settle on them are exempt from the necessity of cutting timber before breaking up the soil. His plough may run freely from the first and the smiling crop wave in the breeze the very first season. The farmers plant trees. They seldom cut them down.

We learn from the Rev. Dr. Warden that the state of the funds at the close of the church year was most encouraging. The receipts for the month of March exceeded the hundred thousand dollars. **State of the Funds.** Congregations that were wont to send their contributions in March and April sent these all in March this year so that during the eleven months there have been received a full year's receipts. With one exception, every fund ends the year without debt. This result has only been attained in several of the funds because of the fact that while practically a