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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Lord Overton, presiding at the anniversary soiree of the Evangelistic Institute, Rutherglen, said he was against the "new theology." It was not a new theology, in fact it was no theology at all.

The total consumption of spirits in the United Kingdom during the past year amounted to 39,302,480 proof gallons, as compared with 39,569,766 gallons in the previous year—a decrease of 67,286 gallons.

It is from the Trinidad Presbyterian we borrow the following statement: "The strength of Presbyterianism consists in each congregation keeping in touch with the work and circumstances of all the rest." That is well put. We all have an interest in the work in which all are engaged.

The late Bishop Chinnery-Haldane, a memoir of whom has just appeared, was a lineal descendant of the brothers Haldane, who are usually regarded as the founders of Congregationalism in Scotland. His father was the son of James A. Haldane, of Airdrey, and the late Mr. Robert Haldane, the father of the present Secretary of State for War, was his uncle.

The popularity of the late Mr. Spurgeon's sermons is attested by the fact that they have now reached the 52nd yearly volume. The whole set contains no fewer than 3,019 sermons, and the supply of MSS is sufficient to keep the publication going for some years to come.

A Methodist Episcopal bishop says that "theories about the moon do not hurt the moon; nor do theories about the Book hurt the Book." A writer in the Southwestern Presbyterian says that this is true, but that theories about the moon or about the Bible may hurt the man. To believe that the Bible is not good, spiritual food does not hurt the Bible, but may starve the man.

There is force in the advice given by James Whitcomb Riley to a brother writer, who had been unjustly criticised. He said: "What you should do with those fellows who attack you is to take off your coat, roll up your sleeves, and hit them as hard as you can with a big chunk of silence. Sound advice; but the average journalist finds it somewhat difficult to live up to it.

Some 5,500 young Roman Catholic priests and theological students in France have had to report for military service. If the men are compelled to serve it will be a true blessing in disguise in preparing them for their ministry. If every minister in every denomination were compelled to spend two or three years in the rough work of the world, ministers would know better how to command the attention of the ordinary man.

Nova Scotia Presbyterians are to have another jubilee over a distinguished minister of the Gospel—Rev. John Currie, D.D., Prof. of Hebrew in the Presbyterian Theological College, Halifax. The jubilee will take place in Maitland, Hauts Co., where Dr. Currie was ordained August 12, 1857. On the occasion Rev. J. M. Gregor McKay of New Glasgow—now retired—preached, and is now the only one living of the members of Truro Presbytery present at the ordination.

The Federal Senate at Washington has responded to the public sentiment which demands that the United States join with any or all of the other powers signatory to the treaty of Berlin, which recognizes the Kongo State and admitted it to the family of nations, in protecting the inhabitants of that country from the barbarous cruelties of their civilized rulers.

The Roman Catholic bishop of Long Island, N. Y., has forbidden his priests to receive money, derived from any kind of gambling devices at church fairs and the like. There are others who would do well to follow this bishop's example. No church has need of money secured in wrong ways, nor can any church afford to take such money.

A member of Lloyd's, London, states that he cabled to Jamaica about two months ago, when they had a small shock, offering to insure buildings against damage of all sorts by earthquakes. Their representative there replied that they never had any serious shocks and therefore that no one would insure." They know better now.

Russia is having trouble with China over the boundary of Manchuria, and the Chinese court has decided to ask representatives of the powers to form a commission for the decision of the disputed points. China is considering the construction of a railroad into Tibet for the purpose of taking a more active control of the territory, and will probably transform it from a Chinese dependency into a Chinese province, which will be a protection to Tibet.

The Michigan Presbyterian has the following to say on the importance and value of active Christian service: "It is hardly an exaggeration to say that a Christian's very life depends upon his activity in behalf of others. It is certainly true that a life that does not reach out a helping hand to other lives cannot be a vigorously healthy life. Some people wonder why they do not enjoy religion. They hardly know what religion is. No man who is worthy of the name of a man enjoys any good thing that he keeps all to himself. This is true even of meaner things; and it grows proportionately with the higher character of the pleasure or possession."

An article in the February No. of the "Protestant Alliance Magazine," (English), makes the statement that, despite the invasion of foreign monks and nuns, and the boasting of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy of their progress in the United Kingdom, the power of Rome is really decreasing in Britain. To-day according to their own official figures, there are 375,000 fewer Roman Catholics than in the year 1879, and that despite the fact of the population having increased by seventeen millions. The number of priests, churches, and convents has undoubtedly grown, but the lay element has decreased. Roman Catholic papers have been complaining of this leakage. This is certainly striking. The London Christian however, looking at the question from another point of view, has this to say: "But while all this is true, it must not be forgotten that the subtlety of Rome is at work in the English Church, and that, if there has been a diminution in the number of avowed Romanists, there has been a great increase in the number of those unavowed. And whether in Anglicanism or Romanism, the sacerdotal spirit and practice are equally fatal."

It is not generally known that the United States Free Church has a Presbytery in Ireland. But the Presbytery of Ireland, which consists of nine congregations, shows its prompt interest in the affairs of the Church by having nominated Professor J. A. Paterson and Professor Dods for the vacant Principalship in the New College Edinburgh.

In far off Korea is to be found to-day the most remarkable Presbyterian congregation in the whole world. At Pyeng Yang, a station occupied by a missionary of the American Presbyterian church, there is a weekly prayer meeting held with a regular attendance of 12,000. Throughout Canada's wide domain no such prayer meeting can be found. Ministers in this country would be overjoyed if they could have 120—let alone 1,200—people present at their mid-week prayer meetings.

Henry Martyn Field, D.D., died in New York, January 25th., the last survivor of four distinguished sons and citizens. Cyrus W. Field's name is inseparably linked with the first Atlantic Cable; Stephen J. Field was for a number of years Justice of the United States Supreme Court; David Dudley Field was long a leader of the New York bar, while Henry W. Field was for forty-four years editor of the New York Evangelist, and a powerful force in religious and ecclesiastical circles. He was a distinguished author and traveller. The biographies of his brothers were written by his pen. It is seldom that four brothers win so great a celebrity. Each lived to be otogenarians. With regard to the first Atlantic cable, while it is true that Cyrus W. Field undoubtedly is entitled to the honor of having successfully carried out that project, the fact remains that the first advocacy of that scheme, and the demonstration of its feasibility, belongs to the late Frederick Newton Gisborne, a Canadian.

Some months ago The Dominion Presbyterian drew attention to the escapade of the Roman Catholic authorities in Malta, when the Archbishop undertook to prevent the holding of a mission in a theatre at Valetta by Rev. John McNeill. The matter was promptly brought to the attention of the British government, the result being that, under royal instructions, the Roman Catholic Archbishop was informed that all the inhabitants of Malta must have full liberty and the free exercise of their respective modes of religious worship. This, naturally, did not satisfy the archbishop who appears to be one of the militant order of the clergy. The royal instructions were met by a letter from his grace to the king, in which he said that no greater blow could be given than to allow the free exercise of religion by all, and he begged the King that this freedom should be reserved to the Roman Catholic church alone. It goes without saying that the appeal was disregarded, but, as pertinently pointed out by the Christian Work and Evangelist, "it throws a very remarkable and significant light on the relation of the Roman Catholic church to religious liberty. Whenever Rome has the upper hand, there is not only a guarantee of religious liberty, but the practical certainty that freedom will not be allowed. It is only the fact that Roman Catholicism is in a minority in this country which prevents us seeing that church in its true colors. The lesson, however, should be heeded by us all."