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NOTE AND COMMENT

Says the Montreal Witness:—During the Eucharistic Congress more than 2,000 priests will be lodged in the religious houses of Montreal, where the cost of board and lodging is \$1.50 per day.

The Rev. J. H. Jowett, Primitive Methodist, has been commanded to preach before King George. This is putting a great strain on the allegiance of Rev. Mr. Whalley, of Arnprior, and others of like way of thinking.

Thirty years ago, Uganda, Africa, was a heathen state, where superstition and cruelty reigned. To-day, 250,000 fits inhabitants, more than one-half of its entire population, are Christians.

The balance of the buffalo purchased by Canada from Pablo, in Montana, are being received at the park at Wainwright, Alta. The first shipment consisted of 46 head, which it took two and a half months to capture. Eight of these were sent to Banff, to be added to the herd there. Eighty more are being entrained this month.

Two more Cobalters have been fined \$100 or three months in Central Prison, having pleaded guilty to the unlawful sale of ore to Dr. J. E. Wilkinson in Toronto. The men were Wm. Lauder, alias Victor Matheson, and Jacob Cohen, each of whom sold over \$2,000 worth of rock to him. The total of fines imposed in this case is \$1,225.

Reno, which enjoys a bad eminence as the last foothold of the bruiser business under the Stars and Stripes, has 219 licensed gambling places. But even Nevada is moving toward better things. On September 30 next a law prohibiting gambling, which has already passed the Legislature, will become operative. It is said that this law-making body, at its next session, will put an end to the possibility of such exhibitions as that which took place in Reno on last Friday.

During the last ten years Canada has received no less than 1,445,288 immigrants. Of these 665,000 came from the British Isles, 394,000 from Europe and Asia, and 497,000 from the United States. Since 1902, 3,883 have been deported, the largest number of deportations occurring in 1908-9 when it reached 1,748. Last year it was 734. Compared with Canada's somewhat scanty population, this vast flood of immigrants is rather startling, and yet it promises to increase rather than diminish. In giving these figures the Christian Guardian remarks: It is any wonder we are talking missions?

The Pope seems likely to lose much of the political support he has received on the continent of Europe, through his unwise measures. His latest blunder was to issue an encyclical on the third centenary of the colonization of Charles Borromeo, the champion of the Roman Catholic Church against the Protestant Reformation. His statements concerning political matters were such that the Chancellor of the German Empire immediately made representations through the German envoy, which Germany keeps at the Vatican, and a large part of the German Parliament suggested that the German legation at the Vatican be withdrawn. It is a mistake for Germany to keep a legation there, and a survival of the days when the Pope was a temporal ruler over the States of the Church, before the unification of Italy under a modern government. France now keeps no representative at the Vatican. The result of the encyclical will probably be to reduce the influence of the Church in Germany.

The report of one of the Commissioners of the World Missionary Conference, which has just concluded in Edinburgh, estimates that there are throughout the whole world 113,000,000 people who are still untouched by the Gospel message or Gospel influences. About 70,000,000 of these are in Africa and over 40,000,000 in Asia. These figures apply once to large unoccupied areas and do not include those districts more or less effectively occupied by missionary agencies.

An interesting conversation between the Kaiser and General Stolte is reported in a German provincial journal. "I like reading the Bible, and I read it often," his Majesty is reported as having said. "I always have it near my bed. I cannot understand how there can be so many people who pay so little attention to the Word of God. When I have to act or to think, I put the question to myself: 'What does the Bible say about this?' It is to me a source of power and of light."

The Premier of Spain, with the approval of the King, has asked the government to recognize absolute freedom of conscience, by abrogating all imperial decrees which prohibit or in any way limit the services of non-Catholic religious bodies. This is an advance step for Spain. The government has been under the domination of the Roman Catholic Church, and, while a measure of religious liberty is granted, all Protestant religious bodies are under many restrictions. The king has modern views, but the strength of the Roman Catholic priests lies in the ignorance and superstitions of the common people of Spain.

An encouraging sign of the progress of temperance in Great Britain is shown by the latest official figures. Comparing the period from May, 1908, to January, 1909, with that from May, 1909, to January, 1910, when an increased duty was in force, the consumption of liquor dropped from twenty-eight million gallons to seventeen million gallons, and the duty paid decreased by 2,883,000 pounds sterling. It is said that the actual decrease is not quite so much as the above figures because of the huge withdrawals which were made in March and April, 1909, in order to escape the increased duty. Granting all the necessary allowance for that fact, the decrease has been very great. It is not surprising that a decrease of arrests for drunkenness (ranging from ten to fifty per cent.) has also been reported.

Last week's Canadian Baptist contains the following: In his speech before the Presbyterian Assembly, Dr. C. W. Gordon ("Ralph Connor"), of Winnipeg, is reported to have said that the question of a supply of suitable men for the ministry is the most urgent of all questions now confronting the church. Certainly, in view of Principal Gandler's statements to the effect that less than two hundred students for the Presbyterian ministry are to be found in all the colleges of Canada, there is great reason for concern among our Presbyterian brethren, and we most sincerely hope that a large increase in the number of their ministerial students may soon be registered. Among the Baptists of Canada, we are gratified to know, the situation is far more satisfactory. Throughout the Dominion, from sea to sea, in the various universities and colleges, we have considerably more than two hundred ministerial students at the present time, and the prospect is that their numbers will gradually increase. We regret that the Presbyterians have so few students for the ministry; we rejoice that the Baptists have so many.

The marriage of Mr. George H. Ross, of the Bank of Ottawa, and Miss Isabel Bryson, was solemnized Wednesday afternoon by the Rev. Dr. Herdridge, at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Bryson, Ottawa. During the signing of the register, Miss Louise Baldwin sang, "O Promise Me." The bride wore a white satin gown with overdress of silver net and lace, and her veil was held in place by a chaplet of pearls. The bridesmaids, Miss Annie Bryson, was dressed in apricot-colored messaline with yoke of Irish crochet, and large hat to match. Among the wedding gifts was a solid silver tray from the Bank of Ottawa staff in the Capital.

The Missionary Review of the World says: France has a population of 39,000,000. Of these there are not more than 650,000 Protestants, and allowing for Jews and other non-Christian sects, there remain about 35,000,000 nominal Roman Catholics, but the priest themselves confess that at the outside not more than 4,000,000 can be said to be following their teachings in any way. The people are said to be drifting away from the belief in the church and from the control of the priests. One of their priests states that while in some villages a number still attend mass, in others the church was so deserted that on Sunday morning the attendance consisted only of the priest, his servants and the sexton, while in some churches grass was growing between the stones on the floor. It is sometimes heard, "We do believe in God, but we do not believe in the priests." M. Bousson, secretary of the Societe Centrale, recently reported that in some parts of the country no religious ceremony has been held for ten years.

"Heresy Hard to Prove" is the title of an article in a New York contemporary, which tries to show that the result of the appeal to the Presbyterian General Assembly in the so-called "heresy charges" proves the growing power of liberalism in the Presbyterian church. Commenting on this article, The Philadelphia Presbyterian repudiates the application of the term "heresy-hunter" as applied to Drs. Fox, Shearer and others of the New York Presbytery, and rightfully says: "It is not 'heresy-hunting' to note imperfect faith on the part of a candidate, nor to test the propriety of licensing and ordaining men of questionable views, in the church courts for such purpose. Nor are those who undertake the difficult, distasteful but unavoidable duty of legal process, when that is necessary, rightly subjected to the sneers or the ridicule of their brethren. They are rather to be honored for their concern for the truth." Our contemporary might have well gone further and called to account those who would, without concern, stand by and see the Presbyterian ministry weakened by the admission into its ranks of young men who are even doubtful, not to say opposed, in their attitude toward such truths as were questioned by its candidates whose reception and ordination aroused the controversy in question. Indeed, the Assembly practically deprecated their admission, although, because of faulty records, it was not possible for the appellants to make out a case against the Presbytery. Be that as it may, it is a simple matter of plain fact that neither the Presbyterian church nor any other church can afford to place in her pulpits men who are antagonistic to the fundamental truths of religion, or even men who are so immature in their views as to be children in theology, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine."