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NOTE AND COMMENT.

In the three big storms on the Great Lakes this season over seventy ships have been wrecked, forty-nine lives lost, and nearly \$7,000,000 worth of vessels destroyed.

It is expected that on the occasion of the quatercentenary celebrations of Aberdeen University in September next year the King will open the new Marischal College buildings.

The carrying trade of the Philippine Islands is dominated by Great Britain. The United States War Office reports that 60 per cent of the imports and over 75 per cent of the exports are carried by British ships.

The Cunard Company have now five of their North Atlantic steamers fitted with submarine signalling apparatus. By means of this apparatus the navigating officer is apprised of the position of light vessels in thick weather.

Rev. Messrs. Torrey and Alexander, the American evangelists, have concluded their three years' crusade in Great Britain. They bade farewell to an immense audience in Liverpool. They said their work had resulted in 95,000 converts.

The Rev. Dr. Macgregor made an interesting allusion on Sunday, the 19th ult., in St. Cuthbert's Parish Church, Edinburgh, with reference to the jubilee of his ministry. No words, he said, could tell the gratitude which he owed to the congregation for the unflinching kindness which he had received at their hands and for their patient forbearance with him.

In a recent issue the Gospel News, of Tokio, gives some interesting statistics regarding the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Japan. There are in the synod seventy-five churches and 100 mission churches, 171 ministers and evangelists and 7,500 communicants. Last year there were 1,500 baptisms and the contributions amounted to \$45,000.

The same story comes from Panama that comes from all over the world. A letter from a gentleman there says: "My observation has been that the men who come to the canal zone and drink liquor are apt to soon fall victims to the fever or other kindred diseases, and soon become unfit for labor. If a man lets liquor entirely alone, his chances are just as good here for keeping well as they are anywhere."

The revival tide continues to rise all over India. At Mukti, in connection with Ramabai's work, great things are being accomplished. Assam continues to experience great scenes. The spirit of prayer and expectancy has taken hold of missionaries and agents everywhere as I have never seen it before, and, I believe, the earnest of what is to follow in awakened life and great ingatherings. I am personally confident of greater things than India has ever known yet.

Plutarch says: "One drunkard begets another," and Aristotle, "Drunk women bring forth children like unto themselves." A report was once made to the legislature of Massachusetts by Dr. Howe on idioy. He had learned the habits of the parents of three hundred idiots, and one hundred and forty-five (nearly half) are reported as known to be habitual drunkards, showing the enfeebled constitution of the children of drunkards.

The California Voice reports the wholesale liquor dealers as saying that the voting of the saloons out of Winters is costing them \$36,000 a year. Voice also calls attention to the fact that Sutter county has a tax rate of \$1.55, while Yuba county, where there is considerable revenue from saloons, has a rate of \$2.90.

Buddhism already maintains more distinctive schools of its own than we do as Christians in Hawaii, where the soil is ripe for effort. "It is the opportunity of modern history," writes Dr. Scudder, of Honolulu. "Hawaii seems destined to give the world a unique race, speaking English with an accent all its own, sunny tempered, the reflex of its climate, strong like its mountains."

At a recent meeting in connection with the Malta United Temperance campaign, General Barron read a letter from Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, who, after expressing regret at his inability to be present, said: "I do not believe that alcohol in any form ever has or ever will do anyone any good. I am now sixty years old, and since I have entirely given up wine, spirits and beer, I find I can do as much work, or more, physically and mentally, than I could do when I was thirty."

Agassiz once said: "I haven't time to make money." He was too busy doing good. He saw too many people who needed help, says the United Presbyterian. His heart was too broad and sympathetic to be wedged into the narrow and sordid groove of fortune-building. All the money that old age may give in charity will not bring back the life that has been lost in gaining it. Teach a boy that the chief end of life is money and you have locked up the best that is in his soul and have thrown the key into the furnace. You have made him a cripple for all eternity."

It may not be generally known that New York is the only state in the Union which legalizes race-track gambling, sanctioning it and encouraging it by official supervision. Every other state has penalized it and put upon it the stigma of crime. Even the last Legislature of Pennsylvania could not pass a similar law in the face of an indignant people. Noting these facts the Lutheran Observer says: "The people do rule, and though they may sleep for a while, and allow the reins to fall into unworthy hands, the jolting that follows, sooner or later is bound to awaken them, and then comes the reckoning! Reform and civic righteousness are in the air."

The confidence with which the Japanese Government have been able to regard the issue of the conversion loan affords striking testimony to the progress which has been made by Japan in the course of the past few years. When Japan most needed money, and a loan from Europe would have been acceptable to her, she was unable to obtain it, the foreign money market being practically closed to her until she reverted to gold monometallism eight years ago. The difficulties which presented themselves in this direction were boldly dealt with by the Japanese Government, who succeeded in placing the currency on a sound basis, and the security being good, and the prestige of the Empire greatly increased by recent events in the Far East, as well as by the alliance with Britain, the Government experiences no difficulty in paying off loans which bear a high rate of interest, contracting in their place others on much more favorable terms.

The Glasgow United Free Church College is becoming increasingly popular, and taking the place formerly held by the New College, Edinburgh. This is shown by the large number of foreign students attracted to the hall at Glasgow. In some classes there are more students from outside Scotland than from within, and in one or two classes the foreign students outnumber the others by nearly two to one. There are American, Canadian, South African, and Continental students, so the life of the college is very varied, and minds are broadened by contact with men of other nations, and of widely different experiences and habits of thought.

Hear what a secular newspaper says on the subject of preaching:—"You cannot move men by an appeal to their intellect alone. To be sure, religion must have a rational basis, but it must have more than that. It must have a Gospel that touches men's hearts. Men are sinners and they know it. But if you try to argue with them about their sins, and apply dogmas for remedy, they will meet you half-way and overcome your argument with theirs. The preacher who would move men to action must drive straight at their emotions. And in order to speak to men with authority and power, the preacher must himself be a spiritual dynamo. He must have the power of a tremendous faith. And he must love men." A right, clear statement of what all men feel and think about preaching and preachers, says the Belfast Witness.

New Orleans has been having a series of impressive and profitable evangelistic services and the Southwestern Presbyterian of that city speaks of the meetings in the following terms: "The pastors are full of earnestness. The people are attending in large numbers. The preachers are telling the old, old story, and preaching the doctrine of sin, repentance and faith. The unity of the different denominations was never more marked. Good must come of the work. Meetings are a home affair. No outside evangelist has been brought in. The means for advertising, supplying books, and all other expenses are provided for without any collections." While we think that where experienced evangelists are available it is well to have them; at the same time we believe that where pastors and people are united in their desire for a revival, they can have it without any outside aid. This has been demonstrated in many instances.

"We have several words describing the men who occupy pulpits in our churches," says The Christian Register. "Pastor, parson, preacher, clergyman and minister are all words in common use, but they are not identical in meaning. A pastor is a shepherd, attending to the personal wants of the people who are committed to his charge. The parson is a person, or personage, representing the civil and ecclesiastical functions of the parish. The preacher may or may not be connected with a parish, he is an expounder of the truth. The clergyman is one who represents the literary accomplishments of a scholarly profession, while the minister (the best name of all) is one who voluntarily makes himself in spiritual things the servant of all who need his aid. In proud humility the minister submits himself to the service of the Highest, and counts it an honor to be able to serve his fellow-men in relations where the rich and poor meet together and the Lord is the maker of them all."