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NOTE AND COMMENT

A revival of religion appears to be going on in Roumania, the spiritual state of which has been very lamentable. A deputy has given \$1,000 for the publication of a cheap edition of the Bible. A political newspaper says that the Bible is what the Roumanian people need.

An experiment in connection with the Alasko-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, in Seattle, next year, will be watched with more than usual interest. For the first time in the history of expositions, the sale of intoxicating liquors on the grounds or near them will be absolutely prohibited.

Great Britain is disturbed by the great numbers of the unemployed. There are said to be 22,000 men out of work at Birmingham, 14,000 at Liverpool, 8,000 at Glasgow, 13,000 at Sunderland, 10,000 at Manchester and from one to five thousand in many other cities.

Mexico is feeling the effects of the temperance movement on the continent of North America. Mexico City is now restricting the sale of liquor by the enforcement of new laws, the license fee has been increased and the sale of intoxicants to minors is prohibited.

The plan introduced by Dr. Campbell Morgan at Westminster, a course of lectures on Saturday night for persons perplexed by the problems of religion in these days, has proved a success. The average attendance has been about 1,200 and that, too, on Saturday night in the height of a London summer.

The police authorities of Japan have forbidden the circulation of the works of Zola, which have been translated into Japanese. The Japanese are teaching us a lesson in morale, immoral as they are. Incidentally, they are showing the advantage of a press censorship.

The Supreme Court of the State of Maine has made an important decision to the effect that no periodical in the State can publish advertisements of liquors even of dealers outside the State. The case has been pending about six years, and it is at last decided that advertisements must conform to the intent of the prohibition law.

The Methodist petition to the British Parliament in favor of the Licensing Bill contained 610,000 signatures. The sheets were gummed together, making a roll nine miles long and weighing half a ton. It is said to be the largest parliamentary petition ever presented by Wesleyans. It bore more names than any petition presented by the saloon interests.

The distillers of the State of Tennessee are in a panic over the outlook for prohibition. It has been given out that the gin mills have done no distilling for about six months, and that none will be done until after January next, when the Legislature is to meet; and that probably means that no more distilling will be done in the State of Tennessee, for it is confidently asserted that the next Legislature will abolish both the sale and the manufacture of intoxicating liquors in the entire territory of the commonwealth. Surely there will be no more talk in Tennessee that "Prohibition does not prohibit." We rather think if it gets a chance it prohibits most effectually.

The world's supply of rubber has been largely obtained from Brazil, where the sap is taken from natural forest trees. It is evident that other sources of supply must be looked for with the enormous demand and wastes connected with the use of rubber for tires. Contributions of raw rubber now come from Australia, Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Ceylon, Congo Free State, and other parts of Africa.

Instead of a system of old-age pensions the French government has started a scheme for providing aged people who may need them with half-acre homes. The plots of ground are not given them, but sold on terms that can be easily met; and if the purchaser has no money the government will let him have it at two per cent. In every case the purchaser must agree to cultivate the land.

A pastor was complaining about the way he felt on Monday. He said: "Sunday completely wore me out. I had a funeral at 9 o'clock, and then came the Sunday school and two preaching services." We submit that four services in one day are too many for any one man. Why will people have funerals on Sunday? It is not fair to the preacher, to say nothing of other legitimate objections that might be urged against the practice.

The Presbyterian Church of Wales held a conference at Colwyn Bay on theology. They re-affirmed the old orthodox views as to the Incarnation, the Atonement, the transcendence, as well as immanence of God. Rev. H. T. Cousins, chairman of the English section of the Free Church Council at Colwyn Bay, in welcoming the conference, said that it was the Free Nonconformist Churches of the land, and not the State-established Protestant Church, which constituted today the real bulwark of Protestantism.

According to Professor Irving Fisher, of Yale, tuberculosis numbers 138,000 victims every year in the United States, and entails a money loss on the country of a billion dollars, and yet a physician of Philadelphia expresses his belief that consumption will disappear as utterly as smallpox within fifteen years. He is doubtless altogether too sanguine. Nevertheless, much has been learned in recent times in regard to the disease; hospitals for consumptives are multiplying, and the treatment of patients is everywhere better.

King Edward, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and the Prince and Princess of Wales were present at the service in Crathie Parish Church on a recent Sunday morning. The ordinary congregation was greatly augmented by a large number of visitors, who commenced to arrive at the church shortly after eleven, but who were not allowed to enter until the parishioners had secured their seats. The Rev. S. J. Ramsay Sibbald, B.D., minister of the parish, and Chaplain-in-Ordinary to the King, conducted the devotional portion of the service, and the sermon was preached by Dr. Cameron Lees, Dean of the Order of the Thistle and of the Chapel Royal, and Chaplain-in-Ordinary to the King. Dr. Lees and Mr. Sibbald had the honor of being invited to dine with the King at Balmoral Castle on Sunday evening. The late Queen Victoria not only worshipped at Crathie Church, but greatly enjoyed the Presbyterian Communion service there.

Recently there was an impressive scene in the Abbey of Iona, where the Columbian missionaries were ordained and whence such beneficent influences went forth. About forty children of the island represented the countries in which the two Scottish churches have missions, each one being dressed in the costume of the country represented. As the missions, arranged in alphabetical order, were called, the representative of the country responded by a song or a verse. The presentation was realistic and made a deep impression in favor of missionary work and service.

In China there are 166 missionary hospitals and 241 dispensaries, a total of 407 medical mission institutions. In 1906, 1,044,948 patients were treated, of whom 35,501 were cared for in the hospital wards. The others were out-patients. The sum of \$245,000, Mexican, the coin used out there, was expended during 1906 in carrying on this work, and 206,000 of it, Mexican, was contributed in China. Of the physicians 300 are fully qualified foreign physicians. They have 5,000 native assistants, including some 560 students. The first medical mission hospital in China was opened October 25, 1834.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling's platform appearances are rare, but he is a capital speaker when he happens to be in the mood, which is but rarely. Once he figured successfully as a preacher. He was crossing the Pacific on an Empress liner when a seaman died, leaving a widow and a large family. On the ship's notice-board next day there appeared the announcement—"9 p.m.—Sermon by a Layman." At the appointed time a curious crowd discovered Kipling standing on an improvised platform, from which he preached a fifteen-minutes' sermon. How eloquent it may be gathered from the result—a collection of over \$350 from a congregation of less than two hundred.

Word comes from Manitoba that the temperance forces from that part of Canada will in all probability win a sweeping victory next December. The sentiment in favor of the abolition of the bar is very strong in Manitoba, and as a result of the act passed last spring by the Legislature a very large number of municipalities will vote on local option, or the "local veto," as it is called out there. The bar has already been abolished in nineteen or twenty municipalities, and the prospect is very good for the carrying of the local veto cote in at least half of the remaining 101 municipalities. That would mean that there would be prohibition in seventy out of 120 municipalities.

The late Bishop William Taylor narrated the following: "I saw a woman who had been accused of witchcraft, and condemned to death by ferocious ants. She was bound to an anthill—often ten to fifteen feet high—and kept there all day. The cries of her infant were such as to cause her release at night. The victim usually dies in two days, but this woman was bound and tortured for five days, and then driven away because 'she was too hard to kill.' She crawled in a terrible condition to the mission station, and the missionary told me she was the most pitiful sight he ever beheld. After careful nursing for months she recovered, and this woman, so terribly scarred and disfigured, was converted at my services."