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NOTE AND COMMENT.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the board of missions, it was decided to recommend that the Rev. Alexander Sutherland, D.D., general secretary of the board, shall proceed to China and Japan, after the annual meeting, which this year will be held in October at London, and that he shall conduct an official visit to and inspection of Methodist mission stations in Western China and throughout Japan.

This, says the Presbyterian Standard, is a good time for the Christian Scientists to give a practical test of their faith. Let them go to New Orleans and get bitten by the yellow fever mosquito. That would be a good way to prove that there is no such thing as yellow fever. However, an exchange says that one of the first refugees to leave the city was a Christian Scientist. There are some advantages about the ability to give the absent treatment.

The talk of "tainted" money has been heard in Chicago University, which owes its existence to Mr. Rockefeller, and in reply Prof. F. W. Shephardson, of that institution, points out to his Boston critics that Faneuil Hall, "The Cradle of Liberty," was built by old Peter Faneuil out of "tainted money" that he stole from the government by trafficking illegally in liquor, and that the government had survived and prospered ever since, notwithstanding that great infantile handicap.

Rev. Dr. Torrey and his singing companion, Mr. Alexander, are to visit Toronto next January and hold evangelistic services. Rev. Dr. Chapman, of New York, an eminent evangelist, who visited Ottawa some years ago, has agreed to hold services in Halifax, N.S., in October, 1906. Would it not be a wise move for the Presbyterian General Assembly of Canada to organize a corps of evangelists to be at the service of the churches throughout the Dominion. Many of our Presbyterian ministers are eminently fitted for evangelical work.

Under the caption of "organists" the "Canadian Churchman" makes the following appropriate remarks: "We much fear that our satisfaction and delight with the organ begins and ends in thought of the instrument itself. We should never forget how much we owe to the man whose mastery skill and expression, and exalted and devout spirit representing often the laborious and exacting toil of a lifetime, and the high cultivation of no ordinary gifts of intellect, taste, and judgment—informs, uplifts and adorns the voice of praise and gladness, as well as the sad and solemn outpouring of our vocal and instrumental worship in church."

The Christian Intelligencer says it is to the credit of the Russian and Japanese plenipotentiaries at Portsmouth, that they held no session on Sunday. Mr. Witte is reported as saying that Russians universally respected the Sabbath, and he could not regard with favor any serious work on that day. Better still, both the Russian and Japanese peace envoys and their staffs not only observed the Sabbath by suspending their arduous labors, but also went to church and engaged in worship. This, says our contemporary, cannot be otherwise than gratifying to all Christian people, and is an illustrious example of proper regard for the Christian Sabbath which a multitude of delinquent Americans (and Canadians) would do well to emulate.

Mr. E. W. Patchett, B.A., Cambridge, England, has been appointed assistant professor of modern languages at Queen's University in face of a petition of graduates for the appointment of a Canadian.

Booker T. Washington finds great encouragement for his people in the growth of anti-lynching sentiment in the South, the wholesome effects of which are proved by the figures which show that thus far this year there have been less than thirty lynchings in the Southern States, compared with over two hundred in the same period last year.

According to the Belfast Witness the revelation made in the British newspapers of the Kaiser's plot to close the Baltic against British warships has provoked much indignation throughout the Fatherland, and greatly perplexed His Majesty and his advisers. Indeed, in some German circles, journalistic and others, it is denied that there is any foundation for the tales of the conspiracy; but generally the belief prevails that the truth has, at any rate in part, been told. It is significant that the proposals with which the Kaiser is credited have been denounced by Russia, a fact which would suggest that the recent meeting of the Emperors, so far at least as the question of the Baltic is concerned, has not resulted according to the Kaiser's anticipations.

The London "Presbyterian" gives an interesting account of the baptism of a whole family of Jews in presence of 300 persons in Marylebone Church (Dr. Hanson), including five children. At the conclusion of the opening devotional exercises Rev. J. G. Train (convenor) spoke of the remarkable interest attaching to the confession of an entire Jewish family that they had found in Jesus their Messiah. The father of the household had been an inquirer into the truth concerning Jesus for over twenty months, and he had fully satisfied those who had come into touch with him as to the reality of his faith. His wife and his two eldest sons had been led to follow in his steps, and the three young sons were to be received on the faith of their parents. That was precisely according to the Apostles' practice as recorded in the Acts. The incident will certainly create fresh interest in Jewish missions everywhere.

The "Scottish Review" publishes an analysis of the numbers of eminent men produced in Scotland, as compared with England and Ireland. The writer states that the "Scots contributed about one-third (an abnormally large proportion) to each of the professions of literature, science, engineering, trade, art, and Press," although we are also informed that "the few eminent men who developed alcoholic habits were Scotch, and were engaged in sedentary pursuits." There were also "ten eminent men who committed suicide, of whom Ireland contributed four, but Scotland none." "It will be observed that the Scotch are, generally speaking, 'good all round'; that the English come out best in the less vigorous pursuits; and that the Irish fail to take a high place in any single profession." The Belfast Witness admits that undoubtedly Scotland has produced a greater proportion of great men than England or Ireland. But, on the other hand, that paper claims the foremost men of all have been English—Shakespeare, Bacon, Milton, Newton, Darwin—names to which there are no parallels out of England. And, pray, what about the undisputed eminence of Irishmen as great military leaders.

It has been decided by the British National Independent Temperance party to recommend independent candidates in all constituencies where no persons in favor of temperance reform are in the field.

Dr. Scott Tebb, public analyst of Southwark, Eng., has issued the results of his inquiry into the constituents of tea and the effects of tea drinking, which was undertaken by the council at the request of Sir W. Collins. He has come to the conclusion that people drink too much of the beverage, and that what they do drink should be infused for not more than five minutes, and then poured off into another vessel. Dr. Tebb says a system of analysis before the tea is placed on the market is much needed for the protection of the public.

The New York Sun recently made a proposal which is regarded by a British paper as a very "significant sign of the times." It is that a new Triple Alliance should be constituted on the part of England, France and the United States. The three countries have undoubtedly much in common, beyond doubt they stand for all that is most truly progressive, enlightened, and democratic; and equally beyond doubt if such alliance were formed the peace of the world would be secured against the machinations of any possible hostile combination. Japan would in all probability support it in Asia; Italy and other smaller States would sympathize with its influence in Europe, and so long as it continued it would render aggression on the part of half-bred military despots impossible. The isolation of Germany would then be complete.

Governor Mickey, of Nebraska, has raised a new issue concerning the qualifications of applicants for state appointments. He has, in fact, declared that he will not sanction the appointment of any man who indulges in intoxicating drinks, or uses profane language. Having been informed that some of the men whom he has already appointed to office violate the regulation he had made, he promptly intimated that he would institute an investigation and the offenders would have to submit to the consequences. The Governor's stand has created quite a stir within the circle of State employees, many of whom, if the executive decides to enforce his new rule and make it apply to those now in office, would find themselves deprived of their employment. In explaining why he took this stand, Governor Mickey said: "It is not a fad with me! although I will confess that it may seem out of the ordinary. But I am sincere in the belief that it is the right thing to do. As Governor I am doing what I can to run the affairs of the State the same as if they were my own private business. Personally, I have never knowingly employed a man, either on my farm or in my bank, whom I knew to drink or swear. I made it a rule to engage only those of good moral habits, and I don't consider that any person can claim to possess good morals if he drinks or swears. I am trying to give Nebraska a clean State administration, and it seems to me that I can come nearer accomplishing my intentions in that direction if only men of clean personal habits are employed by the State. That is the way I should run my own business, and that is the way I think the State's business should be run. I don't think I could make any pretence of good citizenship if I held contrary views." Wonder what would happen if such a wholesome regulation were applied to government officials in Canada and enforced.