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Note and Comment.

The latest report by the Viceroy of India shows that the state of affairs in that country has much improved.

Rev. Dr. Munro Gibson has been elected Vice-President of the Marylebone (London) Free Church Council.

The Roman Catholic population of the United Kingdom is estimated at five and a quarter millions—viz., England, 1,500,000; Scotland, 433,000; Ireland (according to the census of 1901) 3,310,028.

The physicians of Dr. Joseph Parker, pastor of the City Temple, London, Eng., who has been seriously ill, have ordered his entire abstinence from work for six months and his departure to a warm climate.

"Had I never seen Quebec," said Sir Wilfred Laurier when addressing a gathering in the Scottish capital recently, "I would have been prepared to say that Edinburgh is the most picturesque city in the world."

A Dunedin (New Zealand) gentleman has promised a donation of \$50,000 in five yearly instalments of \$10,000 each towards the erection of a residential Presbyterian Theological College in that city.

The Swiss Methodists number 8,591 members, and they take 7,000 copies of their church paper. If members of other churches took their denominational papers in the same proportion there would be no lack of subscribers. In Canada it is very much the other way in all denominations.

It is not into Western Canada only that the Mormons are making an organized movement for settlement. They are reported to be projecting a crusade in West Virginia on an extensive scale. They have asked the superintendent of free schools to reverse his ruling forbidding them to hold services in free schoolhouses.

"We understand," says the London Presbyterian, "that the Rev. R. E. Walsh, M.A., of Brondesbury, has received a cablegram from Canada asking if he will favourably consider a call from one of the leading cities there. Our readers will remember that Mr. Welsh spent his summer holidays in the Dominion."

An Englishman, who has just returned from Russia, tells the following excellent story. A peasant in the Province of Monsk recently went to a publisher's shop and asked for a Bible. All unwittingly the shopman gave him an algebra primer. While he was gazing in awe at the pages, and wondering what all the figures meant, a police officer whose suspicions had been aroused, accosted him and demanded to see the book. The peasant showed it to him, and the policeman, although he did not understand the contents, felt convinced that they were of an "extremely free-thinking character," and so arrested the owner. At the trial the peasant was, of course, discharged.

Two of the Roman Catholic orders which had to leave France because they would not submit to the laws of the country, are to settle in Manitoba under the protection of Archbishop Langevin. Others are likely to follow, for the Pope is understood to have advised them to locate in Canada, says the Boston Morning Star, where they can do as they like.

Generous, but seemingly strange, was the gift made by the good people of Gold Bottom, Yukon, to their pastor, Rev. George Pringle, a short time since, a bicycle, as winter was coming on, "to help him in visiting his extensive field." It is explained, says the Presbyterian Record, by the curious fact that the "bike" is more used there in winter than summer. The frozen snow makes a better cycle-path than the rough trail or the wagon track.

It is said that one of many difficult problems awaiting solution by the British Colonial Secretary during his projected visit to South Africa is the question of supply of labour for the Rand mines. In the old days all the mining labourers were Kaffirs, but, owing to the war, this field of employment became disorganized. Most of the Kaffirs who were driven from their work have not returned, and it is generally admitted that the supply of labour at present is insufficient to an alarming extent.

The national committee of the Presbyterian church on evangelical work in the United States proposes to raise \$150,000 to promote a revival in all sections of the country. The work is to be pushed everywhere, not only by evangelists, but by pastors. The ministers in the large cities are to make unusual efforts, conducting evangelistic services wherever feasible, and sparing neither money nor labor to revive the church. Some of the ablest preachers in the country will engage in this work. It is hoped that with the blessing of the Spirit, great good will be accomplished.

Dr. Alexander Whyte, of St. George's, appeared in the pulpit of the West United Free Church in the city of Aberdeen, and in the evening hundreds had to be turned away from the door. The popularity of the great Edinburgh preacher is steadily maintained. It is a long cry to the days when he was a student in Aberdeen College, but he has never ceased to be an attraction to an Aberdeen audience. It is one of the hopeful signs of the times that this preacher has such commanding influence over this generation.

The United Free Church College of Glasgow, remarks the Weekly Leader, is rapidly coming to the front, and attracting some of the most capable young men in the University. A son of the Principal trained in Oxford is coming forward, and other good students are not wanting. This was the way from the beginning in the Old Free Church, and it seems likely to continue. The fact is all the more remarkable that the prospect of material comfort does not come into play. The Church of Scotland is not equally successful in attracting her best sons.

The Premier has filled the vacancy caused by the resignation of Hon. Mr. Tarte. Hon. James Sutherland leaves the Marine and Fisheries for the Public Works; and Mr. Raymond Prefontaine M. P. is taken into the Cabinet and gets the portfolio of Marine and Fisheries. Mr. Sutherland will make an efficient head of the great Department of Public Works and his friends will rejoice at his promotion.

The Weekly Leader says: The death of Mr. John Kensit, instead of putting an end to the crusade against Popery and ritualistic practices, has only fanned the flame of indignation against those forms of worship that are opposed to true Protestantism. A Protestant association for directing political purposes has been formed in England, and Conservatives as well as Liberals are taking part in the movement, the object of which is to form a Protestant party in every constituency which shall be able to turn the election, and which shall give their votes to the candidate who is sound on the question of Protestantism. This is one of the many signs that the attempted revival of Romanising methods of worship is hopelessly doomed.

A remarkable sanitarium is being built at Belitz, near Potsdam. It is established by the Government for the purpose of restoring to health persons threatened with disability. It is maintained by the State upon the theory that it is an economic duty to restore health to the head of a family or any skilled worker. A group of model buildings is being erected in pine woods. They will cost \$2,500,000, supplied from workmen's insurance funds. The institution, which is now partially occupied, accommodates six hundred persons, one-half suffering from tuberculosis, and the other half from diseases of the nerves, heart, kidneys, etc. The two sections are completely separated. In the non-infectious division nobody is received who is obliged to remain in bed. The maximum period of their stay is fourteen weeks, during which they have plenty of fresh air, good food, medical attention, amusements and all the advantages of a holiday.

The correspondent of the Belfast Witness writes: "The devotees of Christian Science are very active in Edinburgh, and their rooms in Duke Street attract not a few people curious to hear the exposition of the new religion. The movement is here in the hands of two ladies, daughters of a Scottish baronet and sisters of Mrs. Butler, the wife of the Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. The Misses Ramsay have studied Christian Science in America, and gained a Christian Science degree, which members of the cult declare to be a higher degree than that of any university in existence. In any case, they are now teachers of the faith which is in them. Those who have attended the service speak of it with amusement or indignation, according to their several temperaments. Fortunately those convinced by what they hear are few in number. The disciples seem to come from the highest ranks of society. A distinguished admiral and his wife, who were formerly members of the Church of Scotland, are among the most recent adherents."