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Note and Comment.

The Wesleyan census just taken throughout the British churches shows a total membership of 455,012—a considerable increase on the previous total.

What the Church ought to withstand and fight against as one of the worst perversions of the time, is that spirit which takes account of nothing but financial results.

It is officially announced that the total number of British deaths in the war at South Africa is 714 officers and 14,264 men; four officers and 314 men were invalided home and died.

Christian Science, says The Christian Advocate (Methodist), has been let alone long enough, and holds that it will be dangerous to allow it to remain in the churches without exposure.

Instead of a war with Russia, Japan is in the midst of a financial crisis. Over twenty banks have failed, though the Bank of Japan rendered what aid it could. What caused the panic is not stated.

The harvest in South Australia is the best experienced for many years. The total yield is estimated at 13,600,000 bushels, which taken from 1,600,000 acres gives an average of eight bushels 15 lb. per acre.

It is not generally known that one of the most eminent of modern scientific inventors, Signor Marconi, of wireless telegraphy fame, is a Presbyterian. It would perhaps surprise many persons to hear that he is bilingual, speaking English and Italian each as his native tongue.

At a meeting of the Congregational Union in London, on the 26th ult., the Rev. Walter Friend, chairman of the Congregational Union of South Africa, in the course of an address, said the solid phalanx of clergy of every denomination in South Africa believed the war to be just. This remark was greeted with cheers.

The accounts of the schemes of the Church of Scotland and Christian liberality for the year 1900 show that the total income for the schemes of the church amounted to £208,228, as compared with £201,041 in the previous year; while the Christian liberality for 1900 amounted to £515,432. The total of Christian liberality in 1899 was £492,816.

Rev. John McNeill was at Cardiff recently and so impressed the people there that they made him several presentations. One night while receiving and answering difficulties connected with the Bible and religious life he read out before a crowded audience the following note from a

young man:—"Dear Mr. McNeill,—If you are seeking to help young men, kindly tell me who was Cain's wife." The attention of the audience was almost oppressive as Mr. McNeill proceeded to answer, "I love young men—especially young enquirers for light—and I would give this young man a word of advice. It is this—'Don't lose your soul's salvation looking after other people's wives.'"

The Glasgow Exhibition was opened on the 2nd inst. by the Duke and Duchess of Fife in name of King Edward. All sections, excepting the Russian, were in fair order. The despatches lay stress upon the fine display made by Canada, whose exhibit is said to be well organized and complete. The Art Gallery is the chief attraction of this International Exhibition.

It is reported that the foreign Ministers at Peking have now fixed the total indemnity to be paid by China to the allied Powers at \$263,000,000, but no decision has been reached as to its allocation. The foreign Generals are of opinion that a force of 12,500 men, with the international fleets at Taku and Shanghai, will be sufficient to compel China to pay the indemnity.

The Swedish postal department is establishing a system which virtually abolishes the use of postage stamps. So far as can be understood from the descriptions, it is a new development of the penny-in-the-slot. The fee being inserted, the machine automatically stamps the envelope with the amount. Successful tests have been made with the first machines, and they are now to be supplied to all post-offices in Sweden and Norway.

It is reported that a Presbyterian clergyman in Washington called upon Mr. Carnegie and solicited the gift of an organ for his church. Mr. Carnegie listened to the appeal, and said—"I will not give a cent of my money to any church that cannot meet its business obligations. I am a business man, and conduct my charitable affairs in a business way. A church which obligates itself to carry out enterprises and then fails can get no assistance or sympathy from me."

Spain is going strong against the Church—the Roman Catholic Church is the only one they know. A violent popular movement in Madrid declares they will not be satisfied, as the French are, with the abolition of the religious Orders, such as monks and nuns; they demand the suppression of all clericalism and Church monopoly. In Portugal the movement is similar to that in France, an effort to work economic reform, compelling the religious Orders to do some practical useful work. Evidently the Roman priesthood and Roman religion are in Europe losing hold of the people.

Mr. Kato Komei, the newly appointed Foreign Minister of Japan, used to represent the Mikado's Government in London. He is known in Japan as one of the sincerest admirers and friends of England. To-day he occupies the most important position in the Japanese Government, in which he wields a power far surpassing that of any colleague of his, so far as the management of foreign affairs is concerned. He enjoys the credit of being the most astute and bold Foreign Minister Japan ever had.

A despatch from Chicagostates that the Rev. Dr. George, principal of the Congregational College, Montreal has been elected president of the Chicago Theological Seminary. During his brief residence in Montreal Dr. George, says The Witness, has worked indefatigably for the college, and if he decides to accept the present offer it will be a matter of general regret. Dr. George will be remembered by many Presbyterians as at one time the popular preacher of John Street Church, Belleville.

The "Law Times" points out that although a census book was delivered at Windsor Castle, and though doubtless King Edward's name appears therein, his Majesty was not bound to comply with the formality imposed on all the rest of his subjects. The reason is that "where a statute is general the King shall not be bound unless the statute is made by express terms to refer to him;" and as the name of the Sovereign does not appear in the Census Act King Edward is exempted from all its provisions.

Jacksonville, Florida, has been visited by a terrible fire, almost rivaling the Ottawa one of a year ago, which before it was extinguished, wiped out one hundred and forty eight blocks of residence and business property, cutting a path two miles long and half a mile wide through the heart of the city. The loss is between \$8,000,000 and \$9,000,000. Over ten thousand people are homeless and many of them destitute. The city has been placed under martial law to prevent looting, and relief work has been systematically begun.

The Chapel Royal, Holyrood, says The Christian Leader, which was for some time closed for repairs, has now been reopened to the public, Edinburgh. The interior renovation has been of a thorough, as well as of a tasteful, description. From the great western doorway to the eastern modern window the whole area has been surface-drained, without disturbing the entombed remains. Double-swing doors of oak now protect visitors from the chilling draught which greeted their entrance. These much-needed changes, coupled with the restored Stuart tomb, ordered by her late Majesty a few years before she died, have worked a wondrous change in the nave of the good King David's Abbey of the Holy Rood.