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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Crimes by absinthe druggards are becoming so alarmingly frequent in Switzerland that the press is urging the authorities to check the sale of the liquor, which may be bought at almost any village shop.

Eminent Babylonian explorers say that the multifaceted tablet which the Babylonian child had to commit to memory extended to thirty times thirty, and that he was easily conversant with two languages beside his own. The schoolrooms have been discovered, and to-day it is possible to examine the school books, the tablets with the arithmetic lessons still legible upon them.

A feature of the union of the Baptists and Free Baptists of New Brunswick is the consolidation of the Religious Intelligence (Free Baptist) and the Messenger and Visitor (Baptist), under the name, The Maritime Baptist. The editors are Rev. Dr. Black and Dr. McLeod, former editors of the consolidated papers. The arrangement is a good one and the readers are to be congratulated.

A Greek woman employed in the American Hospital in Caesarea, Turkey, was stirred by a revival. She straightway asked leave to visit a woman whom she had injured and to whom she had not spoken for ten years. When she trudged through the snow three or four miles to ask her "enemy's" forgiveness, her relatives were sure she had gone daft. But the next day, when she came back to the hospital she said, "We made peace, and that stone in my heart is gone." That is practical living of the Christ-life.

The Empress Eugenie is still encaze in her memoirs, to the completion of which she devotes most of her leisure moments. As soon as a page is written it is placed under lock and key and not even her most intimate friends are allowed to see it. The work is not to be published until twenty-five years after her death. Her Majesty uses in writing a penholder set with diamonds, which was used by the fourteen representatives in signing the treaty of Paris in 1856, and was given to her as a memento.

A Basel Society Missionary in Kamerun, West Africa, writes to his society: "For some time I have been dreading a request for teachers from the Ndozomakumak tribe, composed of 28 smaller tribes. The request has now been made, and the people are very much in earnest. They say they have been made to wait three years. The scholars are ready; the teachers will be received with joy; but we have no money! What are you going to do about it?" Is it not very sad that Christian people who enjoy Gospel privileges themselves are so slow to give these privileges to their less-favored brethren of mankind.

Here is a paragraph from a writer in the London Christian which furnishes food for thought: "On account of its mass, its unity, its high possibilities of intellect, its resources, its immensity, China is perhaps the vastest burden, and the most magnificent opportunity, now laid upon the shoulders of the Church of God. If the Chinaman is not tamed by conversion to the Christian faith—Sir Robert Hart thus practically sums up the matter—he will become a terror to the whole civilized world." Sir Robert Hart's long residence in China and the opportunities he enjoyed for gauging the character of the people, gives importance to his words. The great work before the Christian nations of the world is to Christianize China.

A great famine prevails among the farmers in the three prefectures of Fukushima, Miyagi, and Iwate, in the eastern part of the main land of Japan. The agricultural population, numbering over one million, are practically starving, and the weather is intensely cold. The government is taking relief measures.

Mr. Arthur Sherwell, in his "Drink Peril in Scotland," has a chapter on the growth of alcoholic insanity in Scotland. Having traced this growth of insanity to alcoholism, he produces the terrific figures that, while the population has increased since 1858 but 49 per cent., insanity has increased 180 per cent.

According to the Congregational Year-Book there are in the British Isles seven Congregational churches, each having a membership of a thousand or upwards. The largest in England is Lyndhurst-road, Hampstead, 1,234; in Scotland, Trinity, Aberdeen, with its Mission church, 1,140. The church having the largest membership in Wales is that at Cwman, Glamorgan-shire, 933; in Ireland, that at Algert Bridge, Belfast, 450.

A Christian Science friend writes us of a miracle that we are disposed to admit. He says that a man who for years was not able to go to sleep without a double dose of opium was given a copy of "Science and Health," and after reading it awhile dropped off to sleep and was never dependent upon the use of opium afterwards. We should not hesitate to recommend the reading of that profound book as a cure for insomnia, even when complicated with the morphine habit. As a soporific it is invaluable.

The Ministerial Selection Committee at Sefton Park church, Liverpool, says the British Weekly, feel that it is high time a pastor was chosen to take up the work that Dr. Watson has so lately left. With this end in view preachers are being invited to Sefton Park. On Sunday the Rev. T. G. Train, of Hull, is to preach, on the four following Sundays the Rev. Dr. Armstrong Black, late of Toronto, and on the last Sunday of December the Rev. Professor Stalker, D.D. Dr. Watson is to preach on the first two Sundays of the new year.

Mr. Wm. R. Moody, the executive head of the various Northfield institutions, has just returned from a trip to the Labrador coast with Dr. Grenfell, the physician and friend of the Newfoundland and Labrador fishermen. He more than corroborates the accounts given by Norman Duncan, the author, of the heroic work being accomplished by Dr. Grenfell. Mr. Moody had several weeks' sail on the "Strathcona," and had an opportunity of seeing something of the suffering that is being relieved by the doctor's skill and heroism, as well as something of the tragedies that he is unable to avert.

The victory won by Japan over Russia in the recent bloody war, is having far-reaching results. One of these is the restoration to Finland of the national rights which she enjoyed for many years and of which she was ruthlessly deprived by the Russian autocracy two years ago. The Czar's decree restores Finland to its old position of a Grand Duchy, with the Czar as Grand Duke, and makes it an autonomous province as before the seizure of power by the Russian Government. If the plan is carried out, the Government will be as democratic as that of Great Britain. A parliament elected by universal suffrage, with a ministry responsible to the parliament and the people, is as liberal a government as it is possible to have with order and safety. All then depends on the people themselves.

The schoolgirls of San Francisco have taken kindly to the bareheaded habit. The school and health authorities encourage it. Dr. Regan, health officer, says: "By going without hats the girls are less liable to catarrhal troubles, sore throat, coryza and the other numerous ailments the child is exposed to. I am strongly in favor of sending the girls to school without hats. Let the hair be strengthened by the air and sunlight." The bare-headed habit is rapidly coming into favor among the school-girls of Ottawa.

Miss Annie R. Taylor, who has recently returned to London from Tibet, whither she accompanied General Macdonald as a nurse on a recent expedition, is said to be a woman of rare initiative and executive ability. In order to learn the language and customs of the country, with a view of utilizing her experience in prosecuting Christian missionary work in Tibet, she has spent the last eight years as a shopkeeper on the borders of the Forbidden Land. From her little store at Yatong she has dispensed not only hardware, cloth, and medicine, but has succeeded in starting many copies of the Gospels on their initial way. One of her Gospels, is said to have reached the Dalai Lama himself. So far as she knows, up to the present time her own servants are the only Tibetans who have yet been converted to Christianity.

In urging the sacredness of the Lord's Day a preacher used this story: "It came to pass that a man went to market having on his shoulder a string of several large copper coins (Chinese coins are strung on strings and carried on the shoulder). Seeing a beggar crying for alms, he gave the poor creature six of his seven coins. Then the beggar, instead of being grateful, crept up behind the kind man and stole the seventh coin also. What an abominable wretch! Yes; but in saying this you condemn yourself. You receive from the hand of the gracious God six days, yet you are not content. The seventh also you steal!" This is just what the worshippers of Mammon are doing in their effort to secularize the Sabbath. They want to deprive men and women of the rest and worship provided for them by the Creator through the Sabbath, and they want to rob God of the honor and glory which belong to Him as Lord of the Sabbath. Before they are through with their unholy contact they will find that such work does not pay.

Chinese students continue to go in large numbers to Japan for such study as will better fit them for participation in the more promising life of the near future in their native country. The North China Herald of October the 20th, says: "It has long been foreseen that whenever a new order of things should be established in China, Christians would be to the fore. This is inevitable. There are so many ideals of life and duty connected with or evolved from Christianity that Christians cannot but take a prominent part in all progress and be the leaders of all development." In connection with these words the Herald chronicles the departure from Canton of quite a number of Chinese on the next steamer for Japan, all of whom are Christians, and whose ages range from nine to forty. These Chinese have gone to Japan to study for four years in Christian schools at their own expense or the expense of relatives. The Christian people of Canada have a good opportunity to help on the promising life that seems to be coming to China by treating well the Chinese who have come to this country—giving them the Gospel and affording them an opportunity to get an education and learn the English language.