

—The Seventh International Conference of Sunday-school Field Workers, which met August 30th in St. Louis, was every way an important gathering. The harmony of sentiment among the 1000 delegates was remarkable, and after all the sharp criticisms of past years the fact is significant that by unanimous vote the general plan of lessons was left essentially unchanged. The statistics presented are impressive and inspiring. In the United States and British provinces are 130,197 Sunday-schools, with 1,372,558 officers and teachers, and 10,870,104 scholars. The total for the world is 227,496 schools, 2,239,674 teachers and officers, and 20,158,134 scholars.

—The Chicago Hull House has made a substantial addition to its instrumentalities in the shape of a model kitchen and coffee-house, the gift of one man. A play-ground is maintained large enough for 200 children at once to frolic in.

—The American Baptist Missionary Union has a living membership of 170,000 souls, and more than half of these (87,445) have been gathered in non-Christian lands.

—Not a few of our large missionary societies have a "gilt edge" financial reputation in the marts of trade, though perhaps none can quite match what the *Christian Advocate* is enabled to say respecting the drafts of its missionary society: "Behind is the Methodist Episcopal Church, which for one hundred and five years has sustained the credit of the Book Concern and for seventy-five years that of the missionary society. To-day our drafts, on the whole, are rather more valued in the East than those negotiated through London bankers. In interest and exchange in the last fourteen years over \$55,000 has thus been saved to the missionary society." Orders for money are drawn on its local agents in various great cities in the world abroad, and the banks readily cash them.

—The Presbyterian Church, South, recently sent a party of 10 new missionaries westward *via* San Francisco to reinforce the missions in China and Japan.

—In the death of Rev. J. B. Dales, pastor of the Second Church, Philadelphia, and since 1859 corresponding secretary of the foreign mission board, the United Presbyterian Church has lost one of its most prominent and useful ministers. His was a spirit remarkably kind and fraternal toward all.

SOUTH AMERICA.

—At the present time four lines of railway are being built across this continent. These evidences of quickening commercial life are signs of duty to the Church. For the sake of gain millions of English capital have been poured into this country. Why should not the Church pour in her millions for the sake of leading this people to Christ?

—These figures from the "Statesman's Year Book" relate to the vast spaces lying between the Isthmus of Darien and Cape Horn, and constituting a region nominally Christian, but most sadly benighted:

	Square miles.	Population.
Brazil.....	3,209,000	14,000,000
Argentina.....	1,125,000	4,086,000
Venezuela.....	600,000	2,323,000
Bolivia.....	570,000	1,200,000
Colombia.....	505,000	3,880,000
Peru.....	465,000	2,622,000
Chili.....	295,000	2,820,000
Ecuador.....	120,000	1,270,000
Uruguay.....	75,000	700,000
Paraguay.....	100,000	330,000
The Guianas....	200,000	500,000
Total.....	7,264,000	33,830,000

In general, though Catholicism sits in the place of power, the law grants freedom to other forms of faith, though the priesthood is bigoted, and scruples at nothing to prevent Protestant teaching. To Ecuador belongs the bad eminence of having a constitution which maintains the papacy to the exclusion of all else.