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Note and Comment.

The Post-office Department is doing effective work in various parts of the country in breaking up fraudulent "endless chain" schemes carried on through the mails.

The state carriage in which King Edward will be taken to be crowned was built for the Coronation of George III. in 1761, so that it is about 141 years old. It is built of the best oak, and weighs over four tons.

A Chicago woman is finding a lucrative field for her literary talents by reading all the latest novels and then retailing them in condensed form to society women who have no time to keep up with all the new literature.

Queen Alexandra belongs to the ancient family of Holstein Oldenburg, which for hundreds of years occupied the throne of Denmark. The families of the Dukes of Holstein date back to the beginning of German history.

Last Thursday the Senate at Washington by a majority of eight voted in favour of constructing an American canal by the Isthmus of Panama, and to pay the Panama Company \$40,000,000 for its property and rights, provided it can give a valid title thereto. That ends the Nicaragua scheme.

The ceremony of placing the corner-stone of the new Parish Church of Greyfriars, Aberdeen, was performed on the 7th inst., by the Very Rev. John Marshall Lang, D.D., Principal of Aberdeen University, who gave an interesting sketch of the historic old Greyfriars Church, now swept away to make room for the extension of the University.

The blank left in London life by the withdrawal for a time of Rev. Dr. Parker is a particularly dreary one. The sparkle and magnificent expository power of the veteran Congregationalist had come to be quite institutions of the city, and the thousands who gathered weekly at the City Temple Thursday service are disconsolate. There is but one Dr. Parker.

There has passed the House of Representatives, and is now pending before the Senate at Washington, a Bill for the admission into the Union "on an equal footing with the original States" of the Territories of New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma. In the House a vain attempt was made to annex the Indian Territory to Oklahoma and admit them both as one State.

The Women's Journal is properly glad that suffrage has been granted to all the women in federated Australia. Referring to it the Journal says: "This is as though American women in every State of the Union should be empowered to vote for President, senators, and congressmen, and be made eligible to be elected to any or all of these positions. This law applies equally in New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria, East Australia, West Australia, and Tasmania. It is a victory far exceeding any and all previous successes, and assures the establish-

ment of women's complete equality in the near future throughout the entire Southern hemisphere."

In the death last week of King Albert of Saxony Kaiser Wilhelm loses a close and loyal friend. When Crown Prince the late King commanded the Saxon army against Prussia in the Seven Weeks' War in 1866 and fought gallantly at Koniggratz. He became reconciled, however, after peace was made with Austria and led the Saxon contingent in the war against France in 1870.

Hugh Miller's little iron safe, from his old editorial sanctum in the High street, Edinburgh, is to be handed over by the Corporation to the United Free Church Museum, where no doubt it will form one of the most cherished relics. The safe is 25 inches high, 20½ inches wide, and 21 inches deep. It was fastened in the wall of an old house which has been taken over for city improvements.

A Government-inspired Russian paper has been disclaiming against the "open door" policy in China. This, however, cannot be a surprise to Britain and the Powers; on the contrary, they seem to have been expecting, and quietly fighting against Russia's objection ever since the latter surreptitiously gained a foothold in Manchuria. Russia, in fact, is trying to extend its autocratic influence all over China, and the present avowed opposition to the "open door" policy is but a preliminary step in the process.

In a table of moneys contributed by Roman Catholics for the work of missions, we see that in the last seventy or eighty years, the contributions of the French people have been forty-two million dollars; and those from the United States, a million and a quarter. Meanwhile, the Roman Church has spent for missions in "America" about ten million dollars. The outcome is that her church membership in the United States is only half as large as the number of immigrants from Catholic countries with their children—that is, she has lost half her adherents since they migrated to the United States.

A Japanese spaniel perished in a short railway journey from New York. Was he "perishable goods?" If so, the carrying company was responsible. The company said that, though he had perished, he was not perishable, being no vegetable. The owner got a verdict for £50. The company appealed to the Supreme Court of the State, and lost. An array of counsel pleaded for right to appeal to the appellate division of the court, and won. Twice the case was thrown out of the appellate division on technical errors in the papers. At the third hearing three judges thought the dog imperishable. Two colleagues thought that as he had died he had perished, and therefore must have been perishable. The majority ruled, of course, and the case was remitted to the original court for re-trial. Eighteen months and immense legal fees have disappeared; and the whole thing is now starting afresh. The dog is still dead; it is the case that is imperishable.

The trust of the B.ers in divine leadership seems to be as strong in defeat as in victory—which it ought to be. In the address to the burghers, advising them to give up their arms, acting President Schalk-Burger and Gen. Botha unite in this Christian and statesmanlike utterance:—"Now that there is peace, and although it is not a peace such as we longed for, yet let us abide where God has led us. We can, with a clear conscience, declare that for two and one-half years our people have carried on the struggle in a manner almost unknown to history. Let us now grasp each other's hands, for another great struggle lies before us—a struggle for the spiritual and racial prosperity and welfare of our people. Casting aside all feelings of bitterness, let us learn to forget and to forgive, so that the deep wounds caused by this war may be healed."

Bearing on the fond prophecy that English is to be the universal language it is well to note what Professor Mahaffy, Ireland's most illustrious classical scholar, said in the course of his recent address to the Modern Language Association in England; "The number of languages in the world at the present time is enormous—some 800 are known. And, as if there were not enough spoken, we are threatened with a revival of some which we thought we were escaping; such as Czech in the east of Europe, and Irish in the west. All these various languages form a very great bar to the world's civilization. If only some attempt had been made by the English to assimilate their spelling to the pronunciation, I believe English would now be the language of commerce throughout the world. That however, is not sufficient. We must be able to communicate freely with the French and the Germans; so, though it is a very great waste of time, the ideal throughout Europe must be a trilingual one. Every educated person must try to learn to speak English, French and German."

The Scottish Church Society is in conference at Perth, the special subject of discussion being the work of the Holy Spirit. The society evidently numbers among its members not a few keen theologians, and some of the papers already read reach a high level. A very strong conservative leaning is conspicuous, and to most of the members the Higher Criticism is anathema. Dr. Wallace Williamson, the president of the conference, gave the opening address, and spoke of the misconception which gathered round the work of the society. He pleaded earnestly for a truer sense of Churchmanship founded on the universal priesthood of believers. Such a sense of vocation would bring many benefits, and would remedy the alarming decrease in the number of candidates for the ministry. The Rev. A. Stuart Martin, of Scone, who is one of the rising men of the Church of Scotland, showed very considerable power in his paper on "The Pentecostal Gift to the Church as Distinguished from the Work of the Spirit of God towards Humanity at Large." The proceedings of the Society are always watched with a jealous eye, but even alarmists will find it difficult to complain of the tone and temper of the Perth Conference.