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NOTE AND COMMENT

Louis Bleriot, in the smallest sized monoplane ever used, which measured only twenty feet, successfully landed at Dover after a flight across the English Channel from Sangate, France, thus winning the London Daily Mail prize of \$5,000.

Lord Kitchener is to succeed the Duke of Connaught as Inspector-General of the Mediterranean forces. This the London 'Express' declares means that he will be inspector of all the overseas forces. He will be the youngest man to receive the rank of field marshal in the whole of British history.

Mr. John R. Mott makes the statement that no less than 186 students in Pekin University have signed a covenant to devote their lives to the service of the Master. They were led to take this, mainly, if not wholly, through the influence of some of the Christian teachers who through all the year gave much time to interviews with the students concerning their life work.

The Roman Catholics have always opposed the Bible in the public school-remarks the Michigan Presbyterian. And their opposition, instead of dying out, is becoming ever stronger and more determined. If Protestants are ever to rescue the school from the charge of being "godless," they will have to bestir themselves to secure some kind of unsectarian religious instruction in the school.

At the recent C. E. Convention at Minneapolis, President Clark stated that in some respects the past year had been the best for the society since its organization, and made a plea for a million new members by 1911. The report of the secretary showed that there are now 71,493 societies, with 3,551,100 members. Of the denominations represented, Presbyterians are first with 10,198 societies; Disciples second with 7,148 societies; Congregationalists third with 6,454 societies; and Baptists fourth with 3,497 societies.

That the movement for placing a Bunyan Memorial Window in Westminster Abbey is making progress, is pleasing news to all lovers of the "Prince of Dreamers." The Dean of the Abbey, which is a Christian Church, before it is England's Pantheon, has lately been the recipient of undue and uncalled-for criticism because he declined to allow the burial of Swinburne and George Meredith within its walls. That they were great artists none will deny, but Swinburne's proclamation of the charms of Lady Venus, and Meredith's late and foolish adoption of the short-term marriage theory, were sufficient reasons for their being barred a place in the Abbey.

All the world is interested in Wilfred Grenfell and his wonderful missionary work in Labrador. The privations he has undergone for "his people," and the work which he has accomplished seem more like the story of some dreamer's conception of what an ideal might be than like the life of an actual living man. Perhaps he has been idealized, but the bare facts of his life give warrant for much, and there is no one who knows of his work who does not wish him all the happiness and comfort that life can hold, so that the announcement of his betrothal to an American girl, which was recently made in London, will give real pleasure to those who have been following his career, and the good wishes of the world will be with him.

The present population of the Fiji Island is reckoned at 95,000 Fijians. 35,000 imported Indians, and 2,080 whites. Our Methodist brethren claim this group, estimating their attendants and adherents at over 88,000 Fijians. We must remember that it is not civilization, or commerce, or settled government that has made the marvelous change in the people of Fiji, but the teaching and living of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

It is only three hundred years since the invention of the telescope. In May, 1609, Galileo perfected his telescope and began making observations on the heavenly bodies. It is claimed that a Dutch spectacle maker had discovered the principle accidentally by putting two spectacle glasses together a year earlier, but nothing had come of it. It is almost startling to remember that all that has been learned through the use of the telescope has been learned in three hundred years. Modern history began in 1500, and all the science and inventions that we know as modern fall within four hundred years.

A newspaper dispatch announces that the Carnegie Steel Company, at Sharon, Pennsylvania, is drawing the lines tighter than ever on the question of the use of liquors by employees. It is freely announced that in promotions preference will be given to total abstainers, and it is understood that drinking men are to be gradually weeded out. The company has also placed large posters in conspicuous places in the mills warning the employees that they are forbidden to drink in saloons either when on or off duty. This corporation is simply taking the same stand which all the largest business concerns of Canada and the United States are beginning to take, and which is going a long way toward the ultimate solution of the saloon problem.

As to the results of the German excavations at Babylon, which have been in progress for the past eleven years, an exchange says that but little of the ancient city has been uncovered, but the site of the palace of Nebuchadnezzar has been identified, and it has been shown that the king had some excuse for pride in what he had accomplished as a builder. What appears to have been the throne room was an immense oblong reception chamber with an alcove which contained the throne itself, after a fashion still prevailing in the East. From the palace to the temple a magnificent Via Sacra extended, flanked by sculptured bulls and dragons, the gates and towers of the entrance having survived the ravages of war sufficiently to show upon what a gigantic scale the whole structure was built.

"The decline in the sale of cigarettes in Canada," says the Mail and Empire, "owing to the legislation which makes the supply of these 'smokes' to boys illegal, is not to be deplored. Lads ought to be deprived of such luxuries until they have reached years of discretion. It is interesting to observe that a vigorous campaign against the cigarette is now being carried on in the United States. In Minnesota it is a misdemeanor to sell or give away cigarettes. On some of the railways the cigarette must not be smoked during business hours. It has been recommended that no cigarettes be bought for the navy. There is a law for reform in that country, for fifty-five billion cigarettes are consumed there annually." In our own country the law against the sale of cigarettes is by no means strictly enforced, many boys still smoke.

"What does the saloon do for its patron in opening or closing doors of opportunity? The United States Department of Labor, using percentages based upon several thousand reports, found that 90 per cent. of railways, 73 per cent. of manufacturers, 88 per cent. of trades, and 72 per cent. of agriculturists discriminate against employees addicted to the use of intoxicants as a beverage. The patron of a saloon may drive a garbage wagon or get a steady job as a doorkeeper of a dance hall, but he can not drive a locomotive or secure employment as a paying teller in the bank. He may clean cuspidors in a bar room and sweep up refuse on the street, but he can not be trusted to run a stationary engine, drive a passenger omnibus, fire a boiler, amputate a leg, administer medicine, fill a prescription, keep a set of books, try an important case, manage a business corporation or do any other work demanding a clear head and a steady hand."

The Governor of British New Guinea gives the following beautiful tribute to the work of the faithful Christian missionaries of that hard and dangerous field:—"We believe that it would be safer for a white man to travel without arms from delta of the Purari to the border of German New Guinea than to walk at night through certain quarters of many European cities. This, to a large measure, is the fruit of missionary work. The debt which the government owes the mission is by far larger than any amount of taxes which it may donate to the work." A former Governor said: "The government owes all to the mission. It would have to double, or rather quadruple, its efforts without the little white-painted houses scattered along the coast, in which the missionaries live. Every penny which is contributed to missionary work is also a contribution to the government of the country. Every penny donated to missionary effort saves the government one pound sterling, because the missionary work brings peace, law, and order."

The Christian, London, gives an account of a reception tendered Gipsy Smith on his return home. Letters and telegrams were read from friends who could not be present. Among the speakers were Dr. G. Campbell Morgan and Rev. John McNeill. The latter said in part: "We owe much to America, and, with the thought of Moody in our minds, we are glad to do something to pay the debt by sending Gipsy Smith. He is a Moody and Sankey together." Gipsy Smith's reply was characteristic. "It was the best day of my trip when I landed again in England." "This mission has been the greatest chapter in my life. I would rather praise God for it than talk about it." "When we got to St. Louis (continued the Gipsy), they told me the building would seat 10,000 people. I hoped it was an exaggeration. The moment I saw that building in St. Louis—which was Moody's Waterloo—I went home and said: 'I shall never be heard there.' It turned out that there was accommodation for 15,000. On the Sunday afternoon the place was crowded in every nook and corner. I determined to hold myself in, for fear of overstraining my voice. When seventeen days had passed, I could sing a solo in that meeting. It was God-given strength which sustained me. One night the floor was reserved for merchants and bankers; another night for soldiers; and another night for the shoemakers. I was invited one day to lunch with the leading business men of the city. My little talk with them did as much good, I believe, as half a dozen sermons."