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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Bishop Thoburn, of India, who is now in the United States, says that the time will come in the lifetime of persons now living when one million Asiatics will accept Christ every year.

The Methodist Conference which met a few weeks ago in Portland, Oregon, in which five states were represented, adopted resolutions favoring the free admission of Japanese into the United States.

A missionary hospital in China has just had a case of opium suicide by a little girl of 12. She had been sold to men as a slave twice before and on being sold the third time she was tired of it and took opium. Yet some say, Confucianism is good enough for the Chinese!

A Japanese girl said to a missionary at Tokio: "My brother-in-law used to scold me if I overslept in the mornings; now he is patient and teaches me how to be careful and prompt." Why is he patient? Because he is a Christian now. And the girl added, "Our home is so much nicer now we are all Christians."

About one thousand newspapers are published in Kansas. Nearly nine hundred of them will not publish a liquor advertisement at any price, which is a very good indication of the strength of temperance sentiment in that prohibition state. What a striking object lesson it would be if the newspapers of Canada would refuse to publish liquor advertisements.

The British government has lately issued a "Blue Book" on the condition of the native races in South Africa. The book contains the details of a study of these races in all provinces of South Africa by a commission of hard-headed laymen appointed by the government. It recommends among other things recognition of the utility of the work of the churches which have undertaken the duty of evangelizing the heathen, declaring that the weight of evidence shows improved morality among the Christian section of the native population.

The government of Holland has laid before its parliament a report on the condition of the native races in Borneo, Sumatra, Nias, and other Malayian islands. This report declares that while the government had found itself powerless to extirpate various cruel or immoral customs of the savage tribes of these islands—Cannibalism, slavery, head-hunting, debauchery, etc.—Christianity has abolished them over a wide territory, and that the tribes which have accepted Christianity are steadily improving in propriety of social habits, in character and in material prosperity.

Dennis McGowa, a saloon keeper of Philadelphia, speaks from experience and rebukes Bishop Potter as follows in the North American of August 4: "I don't think a preacher has any business giving countenance to a saloon in any way whatever. Every one knows it's wrong to sell rum, and a preacher's business is preaching against wrong things, and not helping them. I wish I had never gone into the business." There are numbers of liquor sellers, even in Ottawa, who would be glad to get out of the business, but they haven't the courage to take the decisive step.

Dr. A. Wolff, an eminent German physician, is authority for the statement that the beer-drinking districts show a high cancer mortality, notably Bavaria in Germany and Salsburg in Austria. This statement, in connection with the fact that it has been forgotten arsenic poisoning epidemic which depleted the ranks of English beer-drinkers two years ago, is not calculated to further establish the claim of harmlessness for malt beverages.

The presence of yellow fever in New Orleans leads the Southwestern Presbyterian to tender the following sage advice to Christian Scientists: "We wish to recommend to all our Christian Scientist friends in New Orleans to remember just now their tenet that there is no such thing as disease. They should not think of going out of town. One of them died very precipitately the other day, she said that she had to go to take care of others of the family who were going! It was another instance of going to the circus to take the children to see the animals."

Of pastors and churches, and how they effect each other, the Canadian Baptist says that "for the most part pastors are what the churches make them. Given warm-hearted, zealous and generous churches, and there will result pastors of the same type. Let the men and women who compose the churches rise to their responsibilities and opportunities, and lead zealously and with persistence the activities that should engage them, and pastors, almost without exception, will gladly follow in their train. A loving people on fire with zeal for the kingdom will provoke a pastor unto good works."

Bishop John H. Vincent, of the Methodist Episcopal church of the United States, writing in the Christian Herald of the Sabbath question, says: "We have six evenings and Saturday afternoons for 'amusements.' True recreation—recreation—implies rest from physical activities; rest of mind by thinking and reading and hearing of the great ethical and spiritual verities; rest of heart in quiet, social fellowship with father, mother, wife, brothers, sisters, children; the recreative influence of good music in God's house, and helpful fellowship and counsel in Sunday school. Nobody need desecrate the Sabbath in order to build up the body. The old way of observing the Sabbath is the best way truly to re-create. Even the excessive rigidity of the Puritans put iron into character and made home a hundred times more blessed than the laxities of our times are likely to do. Give us the Sabbath of fifty years ago."

Many good things from time to time have been reported of President Roosevelt, but the following which we find in the United Presbyterian, is the best of all: "On the day of the funeral of Secretary Hay, the President's train left Cleveland shortly after noon. In the hurry there was no time for lunch. At Wheelock's switch the train had to lay over for a little and the President asked that the lunch be spread on a beautiful plot of grass close by the train. When all were seated around the cloth, the President rose to his knees and asked the blessing of God on the simple repast thus prepared. In this quiet, out-of-the-way place, the President of the United States, leading his cabinet ministers in asking the blessing of God upon their food as they were seated on the grass by the wayside, is a scene worthy of the painter, and brings him nearer to the hearts of the people than many of the scenes heralded and applauded the world over."

A French writer publishes facts showing that, in France, the provinces where most alcohol is drunk, have the largest number of deaths from tuberculosis. "Thus, a consumption of 12.5 litres of alcohol per person corresponds with a mortality of 3.3 per 1,000 inhabitants; when the consumption of alcohol becomes 35.4 litres per person, the death rate from tuberculosis rises to 10.3 per 1,000 inhabitants."

The most of that New England rum which for nearly a hundred years has been proverbially travelling to Africa in the holds of vessels that carried missionaries on deck, has come from a distillery in Medford. For a long time public sentiment has been rising against the business, and of late years the proportion of rum in the incongruous double export from New England shores has been declining. Finally, at the recent celebration of the two-hundred-and-seventy-fifth anniversary of Medford, the present owners of the distillery announced the entire closing up of the establishment. The Chicago Inter-Ocean suggests that the disrepute attached to the trade was more than the family could endure.

The Michigan Presbyterian has the following to say of Mr. Hector MacLean, President of the Detroit Christian Endeavor Union: "Mr. MacLean is a product of Canadian soil, having been born at Underwood, Ontario, in 1870. At about 16 years of age he made a confession of faith in Christ and united with the Presbyterian church of Underwood. Coming to Detroit about 16 years ago he transferred his membership to Bethany church Nov. 13, 1890. During these 15 years he has been an active force in the church. He was elected and ordained an elder in June, 1893, and for nearly 11 years has been the clerk of the session. For eight years he was superintendent of the Sunday school and is now the teacher of a successful young men's Bible class. His connection with C. E. work dates back to Dec. 25, 1891, when he became a charter member of Bethany C. E. Society. His interest in C. E. work has never waned and he has given to it much earnest thought and labor."

In many ways the Victoria Falls bridge, over the Zambesi gorge in Central Africa, is an interesting piece of engineering work. In the first place, the structure can claim the distinction of being the highest bridge in the world. Again, the waters of the gorge which it spans have never been fathomed, and no one knows their depth. But the feat is deserving of more than ordinary notice, not so much on account of its engineering difficulties, but rather because the work has been carried out in the very heart of the Dark Continent. It was only fifty years ago that the gorge and the famous falls at their head were discovered by David Livingstone. Now it is not only possible to reach the falls by rail, but to cross the Zambesi by the iron road, and proceed northward for another hundred miles by the same train. The completion of the bridge means that another link—and the most important, probably—has been forged in the great scheme proposed and started by Cecil Rhodes, namely, the Cape-to-Cairo railroad. The total distance by railroad from Cape Town to the Falls is 1,831 miles. Travellers from London are now carried right up to the falls in twenty-one days, whereas prior to the opening of the line their transportation was a matter of months.