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NOTE AND COMMENT.

One hundred and eight police stations have been closed in Ireland during the past year. The only counties in which no reductions of the Constabulary have taken place are Derry, Antrim and Down.

The peasants of Donegal make carpets by hand in exactly the same way as the famous carpets of Persia are woven. In Windsor Castle is an all-wool carpet of soft green colour that was made entirely by women and girl Donegal peasants.

There is a belief in United Free Church circles in Edinburgh that P. Alexander Whyte, although full of vigour, intends in two years' time to retire altogether from the preaching as well as the pastoral work of the ministry, and to devote himself absolutely to literature.

The American Baptist Year Book for 1905 gives the grand total of Baptists in the world as 5,440,000, which is 106,964 more than were reported the year before. The total for 1905 is made up as follows:—North America, 447,577; South America, 3,56; Europe, 526,661; Asia, 137,777; Africa, 10,176; Australasia, 21,013.

Melbourne is seventy years old. It is difficult to realize that this great city of half a million inhabitants, the capital of a Federated Commonwealth, with a million-pound Parliament House and a variety of other splendid public buildings, has grown out of the gum-tree forest on the banks of the Yarra within living memory.

Mr. Charles M. Hays, second vice-president and general manager of the Grand Trunk Pacific, informed a gathering of young men in Montreal on Saturday that it would take five hundred men three years to produce enough cross-ties to lay the Grand Trunk Pacific, and when the new road was completed it would add 20,000 regular workers to the railway employees of the Dominion.

A report on United States forestry claims that never before was forest destruction so rapid as at present and predicts a prolonged lumber famine for the people of the United States unless the universal tree-cutting stops and there is a cessation from present lumbering industries. One cause for continual forest cutting is the great need for pulp timber, and the American tree must furnish this great paper-making supply because of the protective duty on lumber.

A novel way of illustrating a sermon was introduced in Kingskettle U. C. Church, Fifeshire, on Sunday, the 16th ult. The preacher, Mr. T. Pratt, an artist, had canvas, palette, and brushes in the pulpit, and during his discourse gave illustration of his ideas by painting figures and scenes. The painting was done with lightning rapidity, and was closely followed by the congregation, who seemed to appreciate the novel method of emphasising a sermon.

There is a movement on foot to bring to America the body of Pocahontas, the daughter of Powhatan, who after her marriage with John Rolfe, lived and died in England. Her grave has been kept in repair through all these centuries, but the movement to give her bones their final resting place on Jamestown Island, which has been started by influential Virginians, is said to be seconded by prominent people on the other side of the water.

Queen's University authorities do not know whether that institution will come under the terms of Andrew Carnegie's fund for aged and retired professors. The charter calls for the majority of the trustees being Presbyterian. The trustees will not do anything until the details of the benefaction are announced.

A Turkish medical savant has discovered a new remedy for all diseases. He got his idea from the fact that if a person is very tired and changes his clothes he is refreshed. Following this up, he has worked out a beautiful theory by which you can get rid of any illness by frequent changes of clothes of special make adapted for each illness. He is probably in league with some ambitious merchant tailor.

In Berlin and other German cities, it is announced, the Roman Church is organizing social associations to which dances only Roman Catholics will be admitted. The reason given for this is that through meeting Protestants at public halls and dances many Catholic young people are led into too close acquaintance with Protestants, often resulting in marriage, and that they are thus lost to the Roman Church.

Dr. Chalmers asked a woman to give half a crown (2s. 6d.) a year to the Sustentation Fund of her church. "No, no, minister, I simply couldn't do it out of my small income." "Well," said the Dr., "will ye try to give a penny a week?" "Oh, aye, that's easily done, my nor' body couldn't do that much." It takes some reflection on the part of many people to understand "the power of little's" given systematically.

Between three and four thousand teamsters are on strike in Chicago, and the number is steadily growing. The Employers' Association have issued a statement declaring that they are tired of slavery such as they had endured from labor unions in the past, and are determined to have the city made an 'open shop.' Large bodies of strike-breakers have arrived in the city, and serious rioting has resulted. As a result the non-union drivers have been armed with loaded rifles. It is feared that the fight will cause one of the greatest industrial upheavals in the history of the city.

The Northfield summer conferences open with a student gathering for young men (June 30 to July 9), for the purpose of deepening the spiritual life in American colleges and training students to lead in organized religious work. It is followed immediately by a parallel gathering for young women (July 11 to 20), which aims to do for young women what the Student Conference does for young men. Two days later (July 22 to 30), the only purely technical school for Sunday-school workers in America begins its second annual session. At the same time (July 24 to 31), the Women's Boards of Foreign Missions of the United States and Canada hold an interdenominational gathering for the study of missions and the training of mission leaders. Less than a week after they close, the General Conference of Christian workers (Aug. 4 to 20) will bring together teachers and preachers from all parts of the globe. This conference will be followed, as in former years, by a series of Post-conference Addresses, lasting this year until Sept. 15. A few of the speakers already secured are: Rev. Endicott Peabody, Rev. G. Campbell Morgan, John R. Mott, John Willis Baer, Robert E. Speer, Prebendary Webb-Peploe, Rev. Prof. James Denney, D.D., Rev. A. T. Pierson, D.D., Principal R. A. Falconer, and Rev. Johnston Ross.

A recent letter shows that the Rev. Dr. John G. Paton was full of enthusiasm and hard work. He had been visiting the congregations in a Victoria Presbytery, and seemed perfectly happy in his eighty-first year, travelling far and near, and addressing meetings every Sunday, with several during the week.

A London Times correspondent in Ceylon tells of a great temperance movement there. Writing of the revenue, he says there is one item of it which does not share in the general advance, that received from intoxicating liquors. The officially anticipated falling off for this year is 1,000,000 rupees. This is due, it is stated, to a great change in the drinking habits of the people, caused by a remarkable temperance movement which has reached all classes. The holders of the liquor selling monopoly are complaining to the government that they will not be able to pay their fees. There can be no sympathy with them, as they have grown rich in the past by the impoverishment of the people.

It is a common announcement at funerals "Flowers respectfully declined," but it certainly is a most unexpected innovation to find (as was done here last week) the intimation on a wedding invitation "No presents received"; and yet we know many who regard the custom of wedding presents as just an indirect form of begging, and one which imposes upon friends of the "happy couple" a burden which they are often ill able to bear. It might be well for all concerned if the custom were abolished, as well as the present-giving at certain anniversaries. Good wishes should not require to be accompanied by anything beyond the expression to make them sincere.

Presbyterian missionaries report that in Japan Buddhism is studying and adopting Christian methods—that they are forming young men's associations, establishing great schools, inviting Christians, and even missionaries, to lecture to the students. The aim is to capture the secret and the power of the Christians, and to adapt and graft on to their own philosophy that which will revivify it and fit it for usefulness and power under the new conditions which it must face. A similar movement has been taking place in India, though not on so large a scale or with so aggressive a spirit. The Bramo-Somaj, and similar organizations, have the same motive behind them, and they all indicate that the leaven of Gospel truth is working far beyond the immediate bounds of the mission. The whole outlook is full of promise.

The Rev. John Robertson, of the City Temple, Glasgow, is seeking admission into the Presbyterian Church of America. Mr. Robertson began life in the Established Church of Scotland, he became a minister in the Free Church, he succeeded the Rev. John McNeill in Edinburgh, then went to the Gorbals, Glasgow. He left the Free Church for the Baptist Church. Then he became a kind of ecclesiastical Free Lance, and now he is seeking admission to the Presbyterian Church of America. His restless career recalls the classic Gorbals story of the dying wife to her husband:—"Noo, John, ye'll promise to bury me in Stra'ven. I'll no' lie in the Gorbals if ye'll bury me there." To which dying request John replied, "Weel, wife, I'll no' can promise ye just that, but we'll first pit yet in the Gorbals, and if ye'll no' rest there, syne we'll bury ye in Stra'ven." Mr. Robertson did not rest in the Gorbals. Perhaps the Presbyterian Church of America will be his Stra'ven or haven of rest,