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NOTE AND COMMENT

A British fleet of 301 vessels, the largest ever assembled in the world, was mobilized for the annual manoeuvres in home waters.

Australian Endeavorers have recently sent \$1,000 to the fund for the erection of a Christian Endeavor building in Boston. The fund now amounts to \$40,000, and legacies to the society amounting to more than \$100,000 have been promised.

The greatest temperance society in the world is the Sunday School. It has contributed more than any other organization to the education of the public conscience in reference to the monster wrongs of the liquor traffic and the sin of drunkenness.

Sunday School scholars of Great Britain support twenty missionaries on the foreign fields. The enormous importance of the Sunday School may be seen from the fact that on the continent of Europe there are 23,000 schools, 100,000 teachers, and more than 2,000,000 scholars.

McClure's Magazine has concluded its series of articles on Christian Science. The closing number dealt with Mrs. Eddy's strange method of interpreting the Bible. She practically reconstructs it, adding sentences and words to suit her own purpose. It is, of course, the crudest and absurddest of Bible expositions.

Suffragettes tried to storm the British House of Commons, but were repulsed; despite many ruses, and twenty-nine demonstrators were arrested by London police after several hours of rioting. Twenty-seven suffragettes were sent to jail in London for obstructing the police at the Parliament Buildings on Tuesday.

The Pan-Anglican Congress in London, which concluded on June 24, was a wonderful gathering. From every corner of the empire, from every quarter of the civilized world, and from parts of the earth still peopled with heathen, went a host of delegates, representative of the English Church and its large family of daughter churches. At the closing service \$600,000 was laid on the altar as a thank offering.

At the great Sunday School Convention in Louisville, Ky., the following figures were reported for the United States and Canada: Number of Sunday schools, 170,023; officers and teachers, 1,594,674; number of scholars, 13,515,498. Over 19,000 cradle rolls are in existence. Nearly one million Sunday school scholars have united with the Church during the past three years in the United States and Canada.

Whiskey is getting a bit uneasy in the west, says the Christian Guardian; the Western Canadian Wine and Spirit Trade Review has made its appearance, volume one, number one being dated Winnipeg, June 1908. Evidently one purpose of this interesting journal is to get ready for the local option fight that is sure to be on in the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The tone of the Review may be judged from the heading of one of its leading articles: "Are the Presbyterian General Assembly a Set of Self-Righteous Pharisees and Canting Humbugs!"

One trouble with the Russian Government is shown by the recent sentence of only three years in prison for criminals found guilty of actually killing eighty-four persons, seventy-three Jews and eleven Christians, in the massacre at Bialystock. This, notwithstanding the fact that the government is executing eight persons a day for political offenses, many of the "offenses" being acts that would be permitted in Germany.

Although the Government of Russia seems to have obtained control of the situation, and has no fear of immediate revolution, a state of siege is practically proclaimed over most districts of the empire. Eight persons, on an average, are executed every day, and thousands are imprisoned and sent to Siberia for political offenses, without form of trial. The prisons are overcrowded and in horrible condition.

It is not always victory for local option in the United States, as the following will show: Forty-five saloons were opened in some of the most prominent residential districts of Philadelphia, June 1, by order of the license court, despite the most earnest protests of thousands of Philadelphia citizens whose homes are menaced by the invasion of King Booze. The patrons of the new gin mills drank toasts to the judges who had betrayed their duty and responsibility in granting these licenses.

The Westminster, of Philadelphia, very truthfully remarks: "The church in the house" finds the religious paper a constant benediction. It elicits the interest of the children and helps guide their thoughts. Religious journalism is the only kind that is free from offence. It sifts out the evil and shows us the world at its best. Character is the result of many forces, and none more so than a journal whose trend and purpose lifts the mind into the clearer atmosphere of truth.

A few outstanding statistics relating to the Presbyterian Church in Canada will be interesting: The church has 7 synods, 64 presbyteries, and upwards of 2,000 ministers and missionaries at work in Canada. There are 145,375 families, 264,999 communicants, and about 200,000 teachers and scholars in the Sabbath schools. The church contributed during the year \$646,102 for missions, and for all purposes \$5,619,749. Of these sums \$184,360 was raised by the Sabbath schools and young people, and \$135,095 by the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Societies.

"The wakening of China, which now seems to be near, may be traced in no small measure to the hand of the missionary," said Tuan-fang, Viceroy of Hunan. "For this service you will find China not ungrateful." Less than 70 years ago the Protestant missionaries in China had only six converts. To-day they have over one hundred and fifty thousand communicants, which means not far short of seven hundred thousand adherents. In Japan, effective missionary work has been going on for a little over twenty years, and to-day there are fifty-five thousand converts. In Korea, Christianity is spreading at an amazing rate, especially in the northern provinces.

There will always be a wide difference in the conduct of a reputable and a disreputable lawyer. Take the case of a barrister who has just made a deliberate statement of what he called facts to the court. A statement that his opponent in turn positively denied to be true, and as deliberately pronounced to be untrue. Let us turn from this revolting picture and consider for a moment the character and conduct of such an advocate as the late Christopher Robinson—a man whose statement of fact, or of law, was regarded with confidence and respect by the bench, the bar and the public. Whenever a dishonest, scheming, unprincipled man becomes a barrister we may rest assured that his conduct at the Bar will be in keeping with his ill reputation. And on the contrary, whenever a man studious, upright and honorable is chosen all who have to do with him will realize that the law is indeed what it is claimed to be—a noble and learned profession.

The visit of King Edward to the Czar, says the Herald and Presbyter, may have a good effect in Russian internal affairs. The advice of the Czar's ministers is often bad, and that of most of the grand dukes of his family worse. King Edward is a man of the world, who understands pretty well the principles of modern government, and who, without straining his prerogative, or exciting any opposition, has vastly strengthened his power. He is able to give the Czar some valuable lessons in statecraft, and it is not impossible that his visit and influence will contribute to the cause of Russian liberty and good government. If the matter were discussed he would be able to show the Czar the necessity of a parliamentary government, and how a king's position can really be made more important by concessions to modern ideas. Many of the English have looked with coolness on the king's visit because it seemed an approval to Russian oppression. Hardly so! The visit was mainly social, but the influence of the King on the Czar is likely to be for good.

Trinity church, New York, is a very rich corporation. It owns city property worth, according to various estimates, from \$39,000,000 to \$100,000,000, the larger figure being, probably, nearer the real value. The property yields an enormous revenue, just how much is never stated. Those who make inquiry secure only the assurance that it is used for good purposes, and are referred to the church's year book in which it is stated that Trinity maintains trade-schools, parochial schools, missions and sundry kinds of philanthropy. All these things are good in themselves, but their goodness is sadly discounted if half is true of what is said of the character of Trinity's property. In the current number of Everybody's Magazine there is a description of the tenement houses and their property from which the church derives its great revenue which causes more than wonder. They are said to be far the worst tenements in New York, breeders of disease and immorality. Other managers of tenement houses are constantly making improvements for the comfort and benefit of the occupants, while Trinity's management seems only concerned to get large rents at no matter what cost to the physical and moral health of their tenants. Charities from such a source are a mockery.