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NOTE AND COMMENT

The Empress Dowager of China has lately issued a proclamation calling upon all viceroys, governors and men in power to treat justly the representatives from all the Western nations, and see that all are protected in their lawful callings. God's people have abundant cause to rejoice and give thanks for the wide-open door in China.

The jubilee of the erection of the present church occupied by Wallace Green congregation, Berwick-on-Tweed, made famous by the ministries of the late Principal Cairns, D.D., and the late Rev. Dr. John Smith, falls to be held next year. An effort is to be made to raise \$700 in commemoration of the event for necessary repairs and alterations in the building, and for the extinction of debt. It will be remembered that the late Dr. Smith was called to St. James Square church, Toronto, after the appointment of Rev. Dr. King to the principalship of Manitoba College. He declined the call, and shortly after removed to Edinburgh, where he remained until his death, two years ago.

As the outcome of the inquiries by the Scottish Churches Commission, an adjustment of the finances between the two sections of the Presbyterian Church has been agreed to. The total funds dealt with by the commissioners are as follows: Congregational funds, \$160,214; funds for religious ordinances and other work in Scotland, \$566,605; college, bursary and education funds, \$433,516; foreign mission and similar funds, \$388,400; miscellaneous, \$27,721; ministers' widows' and orphans' fund, \$447,918; ministers' sons' and daughters' society, \$18,585. Total, \$2,042,969. The last two schemes have been the subject of special arrangement. The Free Church share of the funds works out at \$467,000.

A scheme was approved at an influential meeting at the Mansion House on Thursday for the erection in London of a memorial to be a world's tribute to Shakespeare. It is to be erected by the time of the tercentenary of the poet's death in 1916. A fund of £200,000 is to be raised, and it is hoped that all countries will co-operate in the movement. Park-crescent, at the top of Portland-place, has been decided upon as the site. It is considered to be a very fine one. There is at present standing there a statue of the Duke of Kent, but the King has assented to its transference to an adjoining spot of equal prominence. The competition for the design is to be open to English-speaking races all over the world.

The validity of the union of the Presbyterian and Cumberland Presbyterian churches has been finally established so far as Illinois is concerned. The Supreme Court of that state holds that the Cumberland General Assembly was fully empowered according to the constitution of the Church to consummate the union; that the question of faith was one that would have to be determined by an ecclesiastical court, and could not be determined by civil courts, and that all that the court could pass upon was the question of property interests. As to these no property was put in jeopardy by the union, for all the property interests were vested in the individual churches and in the trustees of the various institutions of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The proposed boycott by Irishmen in the United States of Irish whiskey, because it pays a tax to England, leads the "Catholic Register" to suggest that the boycott be pushed farther, and extended to all brands of whiskey that pay a tax to any government. It says: "The difference in your health and wealth, after a few months, will surprise you." Yes, that would be a boycott followed by none but good results. Let it be tried, not alone in the United States, but in this fair Dominion as well.

Rev. Dr. Gordon ("Ralph O'Connor") sums up the general opinion of Premier Whitney in a few pithy words. In a Toronto interview the minister-author is thus quoted: "Mr. Whitney is looked upon as a man who has set himself to administering the laws well. From the outside he strikes one as an honest man doing his duty." It is only a few weeks ago that Dr. Gordon and the leader of the Conservative government in Manitoba were interchanging compliments in a very lively fashion. He evidently entertains a better opinion of Mr. Whitney than he does of the Premier of the prairie province.

The Presbyterians of Nova Scotia have asked the Lieutenant-Governor, says the Montreal Witness, to proclaim what marriage law prevails in that province, whether that of the province or that emanating from Trent. They seem to fear that there is danger that the proclamations of an ecclesiastic may prevail in the courts. Whether ecclesiastical pretension is superior to law is a matter about to be decided in this province by the attitude of the Bishop of Chicutimi, who has coolly pronounced himself superior to law, and has defied the summons of the court. The matter is, we presume, safe in the hands of the people most interested.

The people of Scotland are fully alive to the great danger of the secularisation of the Sabbath. All the leading Protestant Churches, through their representatives, are appealing to the Christian people of Scotland to do their utmost to stem the tide of Sabbath desecration, and to preserve the sanctity of the Lord's Day, which has proved such an inestimable boon to mankind. They greatly deplore the increase of amusements on the holy day; which had the effect, as well, of tempting others to take to work upon it. At the recent conference on the subject, held in Edinburgh, Lord Ardwell said the movement was a rational and patriotic one. If the people of the country were deprived to any great extent of their Sabbath rest, that would end in the moral, religious, and physical deterioration of the people.

Addressing the children at a recent presentation of Union Jacks to a school, Lord Rosebery explained the component parts of the flag and gave a short history of its growth. "It is because, we think, it stands for justice, good government, liberty and Christianity that we honor the flag. It is spread all over the world." After showing how the flag floated from one point of the world to another, Lord Rosebery continued: "It is not simply a thing to hang up and look at and consider as a symbol of good government, justice and all that—to watch languidly from an easy chair and say—that is a very interesting object on the school-house; it waves very nicely in the wind, but it has very little to do with you and

me. Why it has everything to do with you and me, without fighting, without struggling you can all serve the flag by being good citizens and good citizenesses, by allowing nothing in your conduct to disparage or lessen the character of the nation to which you belong. You can in a hundred ways promote the common good. There is nobody so small, no girl so small, but by their conduct cannot give credit and lustre to the flag. Well lastly, it represents to you a great honor and a great privilege. It reminds you that you are citizens of no mean city, and citizens of the greatest Empire, as I have said, that the world has ever witnessed. You know what an inspiration is, though it is a longer word than I meant to use; something that seems to come from above, higher and better than yourself, that tends to make you higher and better than you usually are, and I want you, when you see this flag waving in your school, to let it be an inspiration to you. If any of you at any time should be tempted, as we all are tempted, to do something mean or base, or vile or cowardly, look up to that flag and forbear."

In pursuance of his campaign against modernism, the Pope has decreed the severest form of excommunication against Abbe Loisy, who was lately condemned by the Archbishop of Paris for 'his synoptic gospels,' and his reply to the papal encyclical against modernism. He is not only expelled from the Church and deprived of all ecclesiastical privileges, but all Roman Catholics are forbidden to hold any communication with him.

Doukhobors who are discontented with Canada, and refuse to become Canadian citizens or obey Canadian laws, may find a home under the French flag where they can do as they please. The fanatical ninety at Fort William, who have broken away from the main body, and seem to be irreconcilable and opposed to all modern ideas, are anxious to leave Canada. M. de Struve, the Russian consul in Montreal, who has taken a deep interest in the Doukhobors, has made a suggestion, which is at present under consideration by the French Government, that the fanatical section of the Doukhobors should be permitted to settle on one of the small unoccupied islands under the French flag, near the French dependency of Tahiti in the Pacific ocean. Tahiti is surrounded by several hundred small islands, many of them little more than coral reefs, and it is on one of the larger of these, which is well wooded and watered, that it is suggested the Doukhobors should be quartered. As they do not use beasts of burden, and do not eat the flesh of animals, they would not suffer through the lack of fauna, which are scarce, and the mild, healthful climate, it is thought, would suit them admirably. The Fort William company are believed to be willing to emigrate. Their leaders state they only wish to be left alone, and if the French Government is agreeable, their wish would probably be gratified, as there are several islands of the society groups entirely uninhabited, and it is proposed that the community should be located on one of these. The scheme, of course, does not affect the main body of the Doukhobors, who are content to remain in western Canada, where they are leading industrious lives, and assisting in the development of the country.