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Note and Comment.

A Bronze memorial to John Ruskin now stands in the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey. It is fittingly placed near the memorials to Scott and Goldsmith.

Japan has just had her first suit for a breach of promise to marry. And, let it be said further, to the credit of the women of the land of the chrysanthemum, it was not the woman in this case who broke the contract.

In an after dinner speech at the London Savage Club recently on the purity of the English tongue, Winston Churchill remarked "I have written five books, the same number as Moses—but I will not press the comparison."

A new transcontinental railway is to connect Europe with India by a much shorter route than by the Suez Canal. The Sultan has authorized the line from Constantinople, by way of Bagdad, to Koweyt, on the Persian Gulf.

Chicago with a population of two millions has less than half a million of evangelical Christians, grouped in 626 church organizations. The Presbyterian churches number 51 with 15291 communicants, or about 45,000 adherents. The Christian Observer, noting these figures, says: "Chicago is a great field for mission work." Such a remark will apply with much force to all large cities.

The French Comte de Saint Ouen has left an endowment of \$2,000,000 for a scheme to rear a race of giants. Giants and giantesses are to be encouraged to marry, by a \$20,000 dowry for one such marriage every year. Physical giants would have their advantages if they were also giants in mind and soul. But there would be the drawback of not being able to live in modern flats and of having to double up at the telephone receiver.

Professor Fleming, in a recent lecture on waves, at the Royal Institution, in London, said that the common notion of the immense length and height of the Atlantic waves was a fallacy. The longest did not exceed 300 feet, and commonly they did not exceed 100 feet. Instead of waves "mountains high," scientific measurement showed that the highest known waves were no more than 40 feet in height, and they rarely exceeded from 16 feet to 20 feet.

One of the most curious contrasts in London has just ceased to exist. In Paternoster Row, Mr. John Kensit and a Roman Catholic firm have long dwelt side by side in adjoining establishments. In the one window we have had crucifixes, images, and Romanist theology; in the other flaming placards denouncing the Ritualists and the Papists, announcing red-hot books against the Confessional. The Roman Catholic publisher has now removed further up "the Row," and the old contrast which has been for years a source of mingled interest and amusement to visitors is no more.

The Missionary Review of the World says: The statement is abroad, and appears to be well authenticated, that the Wesleyan missionaries in the Fiji Islands are considering the desirability of withdrawing in the main from work in the islands and leaving the native Christians to themselves to work out their own form of government and doctrine. We can not say how true this statement is, but think what it means? Within a lifetime these cannibal islanders have been thoroughly Christianized, and to such a degree that the withdrawal of the missionaries can be safely contemplated! That assuredly is a great achievement.

Another oppressive order has been issued in regard to Finland. The young Finlanders have hitherto served in their own Finnish militia, controlled to a large extent by the Finnish Estates. Now the Russian Minister of War demands that each young Finlander serve five years in Russian regiments, under Russian officers. The difference of temperament, habits and life, between Russians and Finlanders, will make such a service almost unendurable, apart from the knowledge that it is but another step in the "Russification" of Finland—the attempt to destroy Finnish national life as distinct from the rest of the Russian Empire.

The Belfast Witness has the following: The great political event of the past few days is the alliance between Britain and Japan. What effect may that alliance be expected to produce on Christian missions? Surely a good effect. Whether the Japanese authorities will actively favour the Gospel may be doubted; but they can hardly do less than favour the mission passively; and very much can be done passively in such a case. British missionaries will come under the shield and shelter of a Western Power, the Power with whom Japan is now in alliance; and thus the New Testament and the Christian faith must receive directly or indirectly "letters of commendation" to that bright, acute, and intelligent nation. The difficulty with Japanese is to prevent them imbibing Western agnosticism. At present the Christians in Japan number about 250,000, not one in a hundred of the population.

The Centennial of Victor Hugo's birth was fittingly observed in Paris and other European capitals on February 26. In Paris, public ceremonies were held in the Pantheon, in the morning, attended by President Loubet, the foreign ambassadors, and deputations from many educational societies. The programme consisted largely of recitations from Victor Hugo's works. In the afternoon, a monument to him was unveiled in the Place Victor Hugo, near the house where he died. The monument is of bronze and stone, and represents Victor Hugo seated on a rock, with Drama and Poetry at his feet, offering him a lyre. In all the public schools of France, on that day, there were lectures on Victor Hugo's life, and readings from his works. In Paris, the festivities lasted through the remainder of the week. In connection with them, the house in which Victor Hugo lived, in the Place des Vosges, was presented to the city to be used as a Victor Hugo museum.

As an important factor in the promotion of temperance and sobriety, the North Western Presbyterian (American) notes that nearly all railway companies in the United States require strict temperance on the part of their employees, as a matter of protection against accidents. The annual pay of these railroads amounts to \$575,000,000. The corporations which control this enormous annual disbursement have taken a definite stand for temperance on the part of their employees. Other great corporations are adopting similar principles, so that the range of employment open to the drinking man becomes more and more circumscribed year by year. This is prohibition of the simplest, most practical and most effective character.

The New York Evangelist recently stated that more than 1800 contributions from the venerable Dr. Cuyler's pen have passed through its pages. He is a remarkable man, and has passed the four-score years' limit. Though he has practically retired from the active work of the pastorate he still keeps up his contributions to the press, the notable thing being that many of his articles are reproduced in the pages of many denominational organs besides the Presbyterian. It was once said of the late Rev. L. H. Spurgeon, that he did not belong to the Baptist denomination, he belonged to all the churches and was revered and admired by all. The same may be said of Dr. Cuyler—he belongs to all the churches and is beloved by all. For more than forty years of pastoral and pulpit work his warm heart, active brain and eloquent tongue were consecrated to the Master's service. Now he wields a consecrated pen in the same blessed work, speaking from time to time to greater numbers of people than he addressed in his pulpit ministrations. It is a beautiful rounding up of a lovely and well spent life. What a blessing it would be if his beneficent example should become widely and deeply contagious.

Whether or not Ireland is made poor and kept poor by the land laws in force in that country, one thing is certain: for an "impoverished" country the Emerald Isle manages to spend an uncomfortably large sum on intoxicating liquors—the whole sum in 1900 amounting to £13,064,444, or £2 8s. per head of the population. In Canadian currency this is a large total of \$63,625,000. If this enormous sum could be diverted into legitimate channels of trade and industry, the cry "impoverished Ireland" would soon pass into oblivion. The increase in the number of licenses granted and the enormous increase in the sales of liquor, have aroused the Roman Catholic hierarchy to effort to stem the tide of evil, calling upon the licensing authorities to abstain from granting new licenses, which they regard as a grave abuse. They also call upon the "clergy to earnestly co-operate, in season and out of season, in creating and fostering a sound and enlightened public policy upon this licensing question, as well as upon the wide-spread evil of intemperance, which as a canker is fast preying upon the social and industrial life of our country and blighting peace, happiness, and prosperity."