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NOTE AND COMMENT

That China is slowly being transformed by outside civilization is evident from the government's action in the emancipation of slavery. The measure is said to be a compromise, but that it should be at all is one of the miracles of modern times.

Reforms in the Congo Free State seem assured under his new ruler, King Albert of Belgium. A large area will be opened to free commerce, taxes will be reduced and collected in money rather than in forced labor; native officials will be substituted for white men, and polygamy will be suppressed.

A union of the Protestant forces in France has been carrying on a series of missions in the French cities which has surpassed anything in that line. It is said, since the days of the Reformation. The meetings nightly in Paris were attended by great throngs of people.

Principal Patrick of Manitoba College looks for the proposed union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches in 1913. Whatever may be said of such a union in the abstract it will certainly not help its practical working to hasten its accomplishment. It might be just as well if it took another three years to carry it out.

Two Christian laymen in the United States. It is reported, have undertaken the expense of publishing a series of volumes maintaining the Calvinistic system of Christian doctrine and controverting "modern" theology. This series is to be sent to "every pastor, evangelist, missionary, theological professor and student, Sunday school superintendent, Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. secretary in the English-speaking world."

Commissioner Booth-Tucker and his wife, of the Salvation Army, who are now in India, have engaged in varied activities during the few months of their labors in that country. It is reported that thus far they have demolished a temple with pick and shovel, joined in a dedicatory service of the site for a Salvation Army Barracks, opened weaving works, organized plans for the extermination of the plague, introduced canava food to prevent famine, and started a canal industry.

The supplying of the poor and infirm with milk and ice during the summer months is a ministry which is worthy of hearty praise and generous support, says the United Presbyterian. The distribution of the milk and ice is usually accompanied with instruction to mothers in first principles of health and sanitation. This good work is one of the forms of helpful interest and service to which many women who have the time are devoting themselves in the larger cities. It must have the "cup of cold water" blessing.

There is not only a Buddhist temple, but also a Hindu temple in San Francisco. The cornerstone of this temple was laid in 1905, and it has been constructed so as to be a combination of a Hindu temple, a Christian church, a Mohammedan mosque, a Hindu math or convent, and an American residence. The building cost \$60,000. Its services are attended by a company of from thirty to a hundred, and the convent has some seven young men, some of them Americans, who are studying to become leaders of Hinduism on the Pacific coast.

One daily paper has a good headline in regard to theatres: "Prevent Indecency Without Advertising It." Many books which might be suppressed by law are attacked just sufficiently to give them a wide sale. A little opposition is worse than nothing. There should be means of absolute suppression in a way that would not give publicity.

The Rev. Norman Maclean, Colinton, has been nominated to succeed the Very Rev. Donald Macleod, D.D., in the Park Parish, Glasgow. Mr. Maclean is well known as a contributor to "The Scotsman" on various phases of Church life, particularly in the Highlands. Some of his articles have been earnest pleas for Church union.

Is Russia going to be good? Formerly the bureau which controlled the Siberian exile system was allowed \$7,000,000 a year for its operation. This year only \$34,500 for it has been appropriated for that purpose. The backbone of the system was broken six years ago, when an imperial decree was issued, abolishing the method of condemning political offenders to exile in Siberia. The penal colony still exists, but there never will be a return to the horrors of Siberian exile as they once existed.

The Church of Scotland has evolved a new formula to express the mind of its ministers as they subscribe to the Confession of Faith. If we are to have church union in Canada and there is any wide-spread dissatisfaction with the doctrinal basis, says the Christian Guardian, we would recommend this formula as a help over the difficulty. It ought to allow any man, no matter what he thought of the creed, to subscribe. It reads as follows: "I hereby subscribe the Confession of Faith, declaring that I accept it as the Confession of this church and that I believe the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith contained therein."

The romance of the Spanish Armada still lingers, and the remains of this ill-fated expedition have been more frequently met with on the coasts of Ireland and Scotland than in England. For many years costly work has been kept up by the Duke of Argyll near Tobermory, but the reward has been scanty. This season another attempt will be made there to recover some relics from the hull of the "Florescia," the most important ship of the Italian contingent. According to Spanish records she carried the Pope's contribution towards the subjugation of the English Government, and also the crown which was prepared for the Spanish Prince, who was to rule over England in the place of Queen Elizabeth.

A "Laymen's Missionary Movement" has been started in Ceylon. At a public meeting in Colombo the following resolution was passed unanimously: "That in view of the large number of districts and villages in this island that are still unevangelized, and recognizing the fact that the laymen of all churches are equally responsible with the ordained ministers to pray and work for the coming of the kingdom of God on earth, and that every Christian should recognize the world as his field, and, to the full measure of his ability, work for its evangelization, the time has come when a forward movement should be made on the part of the lay members of the Christian churches of Ceylon with a view to enlightening the intelligent and practical interest of others in the evangelization of this island."

Sir Robertson Nicoll, in the British Weekly, advises that the young can hardly ensure themselves against suicide more safely than by resolving to have no secrets in their lives. We do not, of course, he adds, mean by a secret affair a private affair. All of us have our private affairs with which outsiders have no business. A secret is something which, if it were told, would more or less involve us in shame. Blessed are they who from the first keep clear of secrets—those whom none can threaten or blackmail, those who are not afraid at the end of any record that may leap to light.

In an account of a visit made to the different missions in Korea, Mr. Geo. T. E. Davis, of the American Presbyterian Mission, gives the following interesting incident:—"On the return journey from Hang Ju to Seoul, a remarkable scene was witnessed on the train. Gospels had just been given to each passenger when the engine broke down, and Rev. F. G. Vesev, and Mr. John Kimm and a helper preached three sermons to the Koreans on the car. When an invitation to become believers was given, seven raised their hands. Later, through personal work, ten more were secured, making almost a clean sweep of the car, save three who were already believers. It was the most significant scene I have witnessed in Korea, showing how the entire nation is ready, through the gracious outpouring of God's Spirit, to turn to the Lord."

No foolish utterance upon a great subject ever received more complete answer, or was greeted with a more general smile of indignant rejection, than Dr. Elliot's astonishing prophecy of the religion of the future, says the Christian Intelligencer. Among the replies with which the ex-President's theological venture has been honored is a characteristic one by Dr. E. D. Morris, in an address delivered by him before the Columbus Association of Presbyterian ministers, and now published by the Association. When Dr. Morris finishes such a subject there is little more that needs to be said. Dr. Elliot's fancies on the religion of the future vanish into the mist of which they are composed when the breath of Dr. Morris' reasoning and knowledge touches them. Perhaps it was a good thing that Dr. Elliot did say his word. It has brought on so much good apologetic.

Writing of Edison, the wonderful inventor, a contemporary well says: "In these days, when every million comes in for his share of just or unjust criticism, it is refreshing to read the kindly comments made on Thomas A. Edison and his work. Mr. Edison is an enormously wealthy man, but strange to say, we seldom think of Edison and millions in the same moment. The enormous force generated by this brilliant man is seen in the fact that his inventions and those which he has materially assisted have given existence to industries capitalized at more than \$7,000,000,000, and creating annually more than \$1,000,000,000, which find employment for half a million people. Even these stupendous figures do not cover the facts, for no figures can begin to indicate the value of the service Mr. Edison's inventions have rendered to mankind. If we could take out of everyday life those things that owe their existence to his genius, there would be quite a conspicuous gap, and Mr. Edison has not finished yet. The impress of this quiet man of sixty-three is possibly one of the greatest ever made by anyone. Certainly his conquests of peace far surpass all the conquests of war."