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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Every seat in the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church was filled on Sabbath morning, when the Rev. G. Campbell Morgan, the eminent London minister and pulpit orator, preached the first of a series of five sermons which he will deliver in New York City during the present summer.

The Bishop of Peterborough, addressing a large gathering of clergy and churchwardens at Northampton, recently, urged them to discourage the gossip of mischief-making, scandal-loving women in their parishes, because the "talking of these old cats" often led to serious dissensions in a parish.

A union has been formed in Great Britain against Sunday travelling. Each member takes the following pledge: "I hereby agree, with the help of God, to abstain from travelling on Sunday, except under the most urgent necessity, and to discourage all such travelling." This is brief, but to the point.

Ira D. Sankey, hymn-writer and singer, whose name is a household word throughout the religious world, has been dangerously ill at his Brooklyn home. His life has been despaired of, and although he is now somewhat improved, his intimate friends and relatives are still anxious about him. He has been blind for some time.

The outlook for the wool clip in the Canadian Territories is splendid. The total will be about 700,000 pounds, of which Alberta will give about 290,000 pounds; Medicine Hat, 60,000 pounds; Walsh, 90,000 pounds, and Maple Creek, 230,000 pounds. The best class of western wool is very fine, almost pure merino, and will clean up to 60 per cent of scoured wool.

The death is announced of Rev. Dr. Peter Grant, Dundee, which took place at Crieff. Dr. Grant was born in Edinburgh on October 7, 1828, and took his Arts and Divinity courses at the university of his native city. In 1851 he was called as minister of St. John's (Cross) Church, Dundee. Dr. Grant made several valuable contributions to theological literature, chief among which is the "Emblems of Jesus." He was a brother of the late Principal Grant of Queen's University, Kingston.

The annual report by the Deputy Master of the Mint contains beautiful facsimiles of the new Great Seals for the United Kingdom, Scotland and Ireland. From the report we learn that the preparation of the designs for these seals, with the exception of that of the counter Seal of Scotland, was entrusted to the late engraver to the Mint, Mr. De Saulles. For the counter Seal of Scotland Sir James Balfour Paul, Lyon King of Arms, furnished a design exhibiting the Royal Arms of Scotland.

One of the very noticeable things about the personnel of the Christian Endeavor Convention was the character of the delegates and of the men occupying official position. The religious freak was conspicuous by his absence, as was the long-faced, whining type of Christian. The prevailing type was that of men and women, young and old, whose religion was practical and strong, and made life a thing that is good and to be enjoyed. Everywhere there was that vital Christian spirit which true religion is meant to manifest, and which means strength in all that pertains to true living.

The Bible Society reports a circulation of 5,857,615 copies for the year ending March 31st. This total is an increase of 160,284 copies on the previous issue and represents 2,663 tons of Scriptures in bulk.

It is a bad omen for the future of German Protestantism that the orthodoxy of its official leaders is doing much to repel thoughtful young men from entering the ministry. In 1887 the German Universities had 4,634 students of theology, but this year, in spite of the growth of population, there are only 2,553, or little more than half. The universities most frequented by them are Berlin (221 theological students), Halle (305), and Leipzig (280).

Says the *Scottish American Journal*: The sacred buildings on Iona, which were bequeathed to the Established Church of Scotland by the late Duke of Argyll, by no means represent those which were reared by Columba and his disciples, though this is widely believed by many visitors to the island. As a matter of fact the saint had been dead for several hundred years before one stone was laid upon another. St. Oran's Chapel, the oldest portion of the present structure, is in the Norman style, and probably is no older than the twelfth century.

By the forethought of the late Rev. J. Hudson Taylor, M.R.C.S., who for the last half century had been a conspicuous as well as a most respected figure in the missionary world, there will be no difficulty about the future directorship of the China Inland Mission. Three years before his death Mr. Taylor, with the concurrence of all his committees and councils, appointed as acting director Mr. H. E. Hoste, son of Major-General Hoste, of Brighton, and himself a young officer in the Royal Artillery prior to joining the mission. Mr. Hoste is at present residing at Shanghai. It is interesting to recall that he was one of the famous "Cambridge seven" who proceeded to China in 1885.

Many of the churches in Russia are very beautiful in adornment. There is a rich display of silver and gold. Russia now represents that particular feature which was characteristic of England in the sixteenth century—viz., the finest buildings in the country are the churches. The Cathedral in Moscow is adorned with extraordinary profusion and splendour. Besides numerous paintings representing the scenes in the Gospel story, there are on the walls 50 full-length icons, 1,066 half-lengths and heads of angels, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, sovereigns, and patriarchs. The whole of the interior of the church glitters with gold, and one is surprised at such an accomplishment of human workmanship. The finish of design appears to be perfect.

As is well known, the present prosperity of Egypt is greatly, if not entirely, due to the administration of its affairs by Great Britain through Lord Cromer. At a dinner given in his honor in London lately he said that four conditions were essential to the uniform and steady progress of Egypt. The first was that they should not be in a hurry; the second, that Egyptian affairs should be kept out of the dangerous swirl of British party politics; the third, that, while every reasonable occasion should be taken to profit by any real aptitude the Egyptians might show for managing their own affairs, great care should be observed in urging Western ideas on the country before the people were ripe to assimilate such ideas; and fourth, and last, that Egypt should continue to be governed in the interest of the Egyptians themselves.

On the 14th inst. the partially-restored Cathedral of Iona, Argyllshire, was reopened for regular Christian worship according to the forms of the Church of Scotland by a service taken part in by the Rev. Dr. Russell, Campbelltown, convener of the Highland Committee of the Church of Scotland, the Rev. Dr. Donald MacLeod, late of St. Coloma's, London, and other leading ministers of the Church. About \$35,000 have been spent on the restoration, but to complete the work other \$50,000 will be required.

According to the British Consul in Korea, the trade of the country has during the past year shown considerable improvement, and in the territory under control of Japan, the war has proven of great advantage to a big section of the population. It is reported that the fine conduct of the Japanese soldiery has prevented any loss or damage from their presence, while farmers have benefited by the demands of their commissariat, and have disposed of their produce more easily and profitably than by carrying it to the ports. The influx of money and the vast employment of labour have alike resulted beneficially to the Koreans. A large number of coolies secured employment in the Japanese transport service, and on the railways and other works being pushed forward by the Jap, thousands are engaged.

In an old country exchange we find the following pen-portrait of a well-known Scottish evangelist: Mr. McNeill is a strong, muscular, vigorous man, in the full glow of health and animal spirits, and bearing his fifty years of labour, his thousands of miles of travel, his tens of thousands of hours of forceful and energetic preaching, as if his life had been a long holiday spent in the open air and in the most invigorating of climates. He looks eminently sane, sensible, practical, bubbling over with humour, kindness, and good nature; a man who evidently knows and feels the joy of living, and would like others to share his joy. Residence in England and travel round the world have not abated his Doric accent, dwarfed his Scottish characteristics, or lessened his pawky Scottish humour and style. He gives one the idea of manliness, naturalness, sincerity and strength, and makes one feel both by his precept and example that Christianity does not dwarf, but develop manhood.

Of Mr. McNeill's preaching it is said: His sermon was practical and pointed, simple and stirring, original and fresh in its thought, expression, and illustration, and relieved by flashes of humour, which, in his case, at all events, appear neither incongruous nor unilluminating. He gets to the heart, the kernel of his subject at once, and keeps at it. There are no theological subtleties or philosophical sophistries. His subject was Christ knocking at the door as described in the message to the Laodiceans, recorded in the Revelation. While he lashed the modern Laodiceans in no measured terms, he pictured and described the Knocker, the knock, the Laodicean inside in such vivid, stirring, and realistic colours that no hearer could fail to be impressed by the clearness, fulness, yet simplicity, with which the cardinal lesson of the text was enforced and impressed. If I had wondered in the abstract as to why people crowded to hear evangelists, I felt no surprise that they should go to hear John McNeill. He interests, he warms, he stimulates, he inspires. He makes one realize that Christian manhood as he represents it, is a fine and fitting thing for this world, and that Christianity, as he presents it, is the best thing not only for this world, but for the world to come.