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Note and Comment.

A union movement of Protestant churches in Mexico City has been begun to reach the unchurched members of the English-speaking colony in the capital of Mexico. Union prayer meetings are being held.

The Westminster thinks that Moses was a poet for an hour during his whole one hundred and twenty years. We should have thought that the Ninetieth Psalm, for instance, would have taken longer time than that to compose, but nine editors out of ten forget that that immortal funeral hymn was "the prayer of Moses, the man of God."

The Ontario Education Department has made arrangements for Summer schools, to be held at the Normal schools, Toronto, Ottawa, and London. The main purpose of the schools is to give instruction in the following departments:—Manual training, house-hold science, nature study and art.

The Wesleyan Church in the Transvaal reports very encouraging progress during the past year. The war demoralized the work to a great extent, and after its close there were many difficulties to be encountered, but these were met hopefully, and now a rich harvest is being reaped. A special effort is being made to reach the Chinese at work in the Rand.

The P. E. Island legislature has unanimously passed a resolution calling on the Federal government to make a just and equitable provision in accordance with the time, intent and meaning of the contract to restore to the province its original representation, and that the memorial as above be sent to the governor general in council.

The cheap edition of "Jesus, the Carpenter of Nazareth," by Mr. Robert Bird, has met with a great success. Originally intended for the use of the author's children, the book has been translated into tongues so diverse as Welsh and Tamil, and has been read to the native in India, China, and Africa. More remarkable still, it has been read in native schools in and near Nazareth itself.

An anti-Catholic play in Chicago created so much opposition that The New World (Catholic) advised its people to attend the theater and "decorate the stage with over-ripe hen fruit." On this the Presbyterian Standard remarks: It is that spirit, come to think of it, that is largely responsible for the fact that so little of the New World belongs to the Catholic Church, which once could claim nearly the whole continent.

A vigorous campaign is being carried on throughout California under the leadership of Dr. I. Wilbur Chapman. The work has been carried on for three weeks at Los Angeles. 173,000 persons attended the meetings, and 3,100 cards were signed by persons expressing a desire to lead Christian lives. Dr. Chapman considers the mission the greatest that he has been privileged to conduct. The work is being prosecuted in other districts in California.

The British Home Secretary, replying to a question in the House of Commons, stated that the convictions for drunkenness in England and Wales in 1901 numbered 189,350; in 1902, 189,507; and in 1903, 200,385. In 1903, 487 separations orders were granted to the husbands of habitual drunkards, and 281 to wives. The figures for 1904 are not yet available.

An aged Cree Indian, who failed in learning to read, has committed to memory, through repeated hearings, the 14th, 15th, and 16th chapters of John. There is no danger of his lacking matter for communications with his own heart on his bed.

A Methodist theological school in India is using the entire set of books prepared by the Baptists for their similar school in Ramapatam. The community of interests in the denominations on the Mission field could have no better proof.

A great revival movement is reported from Lanarkshire, the largest industrial county in Scotland. A mighty wave of religious fervor is sweeping over the whole country, and at Motherwell, the centre of the Scottish iron and steel trade, thousands of converts have been made.

The first General Synod of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in India has just been held in Madras. Reports showed the work of the church to be prospering greatly, and the workers are full of enthusiasm. There has been an increase in members since 1897 of about 4,000, and the total number of members is now 21,235. There is great need for additional workers, and the Synod will press the Australian church to come to their help.

The heroism and the tragedy of Father Damien have been pitifully repeated, says the London Standard. Living amidst, yet sedulously isolated from, the prosaic daily life of London is a young English missionary, who has come back from India—a leper. He went to aid the lepers, and himself fell a victim to the most dreaded of all diseases. It has been denied to him to die in the place of his martyrdom, as did Father Damien. His condition is quite hopeless, but his life may be prolonged for years.

The China Inland Mission had on January 1, 1904, in 199 stations in China, 743 missionaries, men and women, besides 15 still engaged in study, and 25 engaged in home work or not yet assigned to stations. 465 of its missionaries are women. The receipts of the society for 1903 were \$225,458.30. It reports the number of conversions in its stations in China in 1903 at 1,700. Ten years ago the annual number of conversions was about 700. Comparison of the two figures suggests that the powers of evil prepared the way of the Kingdom when they sought to barricade it by that terrible outburst of 1900.

Has criticism lessened the sale of the Bible? Evidently not. Mr. Henry Frowde, of the Oxford University Press, being questioned on the subject said:—"First, more Bibles are being sold than was ever the case before; secondly, many more of those sold are in large type. Any comment on the first point is unnecessary, because figures speak for themselves; and, so far as I can calculate, the whole output of English Bibles in the course of a year is about two million copies. On the second point a clear inference would seem to be that large-type Bibles are chosen because they are meant to be read, and no doubt are read." Mr. Frowde added that in rough numbers the Oxford Press produces about a million Oxford Bibles in the year. In 1875 the figures were about 500,000, just half the present output. It is a striking commentary on the alleged decadence of the power of the Gospel to find a widespread revival of religion prevailing; and also when the Bible has been subjected to the most searching criticism, its sales are doubling.

A missionary at Hamada, Japan, writes that he attempted to console the mother of a soldier whose funeral he was attending. But she said to him: "You should congratulate me. Is it not the greatest honor my son could have had—to die for his country?" There is no doubt as to the genuine ring of Japanese patriotism.

Bring an outsider with you. One of the most useful men in the Presbyterian church of New York rented several pews and made it a point to keep them filled at every service. In this way he always had several persons in the pews he rented. Soon they became sufficiently interested to rent pews for themselves, and then became members of the church. This may be called effective Christian activity, and may result in putting some "very bright stars in your crown." Then a good thing to do is to pray for those you are taking with you to the service.

European forests, that were weak a century ago, are now more extensive, grow better timber and more of it and have increased in value beyond even usurious interest on money. The San Francisco Call urges government reservation of American forests before it is too late, if a permanent source of timber supply for the whole country is to be maintained. Canada has still abundant timber forests along her Northern territory, but the demands for lumber are growing so rapidly that without delay steps should be taken by "the powers that be" to guard against wholesale destruction of our timber areas.

In Russia, of all places in the world, comes report of an agitation for separation of church and state, and the proposal, akin to a demand, comes from clergymen of the "established" Greek church. The despotism of the Russian Church is not only associated and intertwined with the despotism of the bureaucracy but is in fact the worst feature of that despotism; for, while the oppressive acts of the civil government can only injure a people physically and materially, ecclesiastical oppression prevents mental development and shuts them up in a prison house of superstition and ignorance or of unbelief and hatred of all religion. Out of the war may come relief for the Russian people.

"We heard the other day," says the Christian Guardian, "that one of the oldest residents of a certain Manitoba town, who is also a prominent member and elder of one of the churches of that town, had applied to the Provincial Government for a license to sell intoxicating liquors as a hotel-keeper. It is a town of some four hundred inhabitants, and has already got one license. The saloon business is generally considered degrading employment for even the lower class of citizens, but it looks as though the number of those claiming for it a status of respectability were increasing in the Prairie Province. This, however, should not elevate a business which can only grow on the ruin of humanity for time and eternity in any truly Christian community. The incident certainly does not speak very highly for the morality of that western town." Who is The Elder? And where is the town? In Scotland, in by gone days at any rate, we believe it was not an unusual thing to see a liquor dealer in the eldership; but in Canada, happily, we can not recall a case of the kind.

If we see little good in humanity we may depend upon it, humanity will see little good in us.