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Note and Comment.

Most of the British regiments in South Africa have their own newspapers, which are published once a month.

Russia proposes to increase the number of its troops on the German and Austrian boundaries to 300,000 men.

There has been one Dutch, one English, one Swiss and one Portuguese Pope. Two hundred and one have been Italian.

An expedition has been sent to Kingston, Jamaica, by Harvard Observatory to observe the planet Eros in its approaching opposition.

Mr. James Robertson, president of the James Robertson Company, with branches in Toronto, Winnipeg and other cities, died at Montreal.

It is stated that the Jungfrau Railway in its entirety is to be abandoned, but the section already built and under construction will undoubtedly be very popular.

It is planned to establish in Boston a day nursery for blind babies who are not received in other nurseries because they require more time than the matrons can give.

Canadian Pacific engineers just returned from an exploring expedition of the Canadian Rockies report the discovery of magnificent water-falls, one dropping from a height of 1,300 ft.

Statistics show that in the whole Dominion of Canada there have only been 271 divorces granted in 32 years; in Prince Edward Island, with a population of 100,000, there has not been a divorce in 30 years.

The city of Toronto gives notice of an application to Parliament to amend the Bell Telephone Company's act to prevent the charging of excessive rates. The Bell Company is asking power to increase its capital stock.

Mr. Roblin, premier, announces his intention of introducing at the next session of the Manitoba Legislature an act which would make the attendance at school of children between the ages of six and fourteen compulsory.

The Pekin Observatory, which for two centuries has been one of the chief glories of Pekin, has been looted, and half the instruments will go to Berlin and half to Paris. The instruments were erected by the Jesuits.

In excavating for the drainage system which is being installed in the city of Mexico, a number of articles were found which belonged to a period previous to the invasion of Cortez. Some of the articles found were golden ornaments with which the Aztec Gods were decorated.

There has been placed in the parish church of Lochbroom, Ross-shire, a handsome marble tablet in memory of the Rev. James Robertson, generally known in Highland annals as "Am Minis-tear Laidir," a notable clergyman of the eighteenth century, famous throughout the Highlands.

The British Parliament was dismissed Saturday until the middle of February, with the Queen's speech. It was as follows: "My Lords and Gentlemen: I thank you for the liberal provision you have made for the expenses incurred in the operations of my armies in South Africa and China."

The Tiber at Rome has been swollen by heavy rains, and the water in the Forum was six feet deep on December 2. The Protestant cemetery is inundated, and it is impossible to get within 2,000 feet of St. Paul's Without the Walls. A large landslide occurred on the bank, and the arches of two bridges have disappeared. The dwellers in the lower section of the city are in great distress.

English capitalists are endeavoring to secure control of the salmon canneries of British Columbia. It is the plan of the English capitalists to run seventy-three canneries on the co-operative plan. Japanese labor will be excluded. White fishermen will be paid good wages and receive a share of the profits.

The War Office is said to have disallowed the pay of 300 volunteers who were in a camp of instruction because they returned by a train which started seven minutes before the completion of the fortnight. The officers who had advanced the men their pay are wondering how they will get it back. So much for War Office red tape!

The annual report on the changes in rates of wages and hours of labor in Great Britain during the year 1899 has just been issued. The prosperity of the country was such that the percentage of the unemployed was the lowest recorded since 1860. The changes of wages last year aggregated a rise of \$575,000 per week, an increase of \$100,000 over the year 1898.

A committee of scientific men who were appointed to investigate the matter state that an eruption of Mt. Vesuvius may be expected at any time. It has been some time since there has been a dangerous outbreak. The experts in the observatory say that an eruption may occur at almost any time, but they are not ready to predict the strength of the eruption.

Professor George Adam Smith denies the report that the churches of Glasgow are losing their grip on the working man. He says that an eight years' study of social conditions in the city has revealed to him much activity among the wage-earners in the East End churches for their fellows, and that were it not for the working classes the evangelical tone of religious life in Glasgow could not be kept up a week.

Twelve months ago Kruger could stand on the veldt, look as far as the horizon and say "these are my lands"; today he owns not a single acre in all South Africa. A year ago Kruger was president of the Transvaal and declared that God was on his side; today he is an exile, and all European courts are closed against him. Instead of the so-called republics of a year ago in South Africa the "Union Jack" now waves from Pretoria to Cape Town.

This item from the Scientific American is interesting as well as suggestive:—A suburban electric street car line in St. Louis has fitted one of its cars with a telephone, says the Railway Review. The instrument is placed in the rear of the car, the negative wire being connected permanently through the wheels to the rail, and the positive wire being fitted with a simple device resembling a jointed fishing pole by which connection is secured to a private overhead wire paralleling the trolley.

The Colonial Office has announced that it has received a further warning from Sir Alfred Milner that no one should yet go to South Africa with a view to obtaining employment in the new colonies, unless he is in a position to maintain himself for a considerable time. He says that no one ought to go out at this juncture without a definite appointment already secured, or ample private means. Others will only find themselves destitute in a very expensive country, and increase the burden of the rapidly dwindling relief funds.

The Belfast Witness says:—Dr. Ryle, of Cambridge, a Broad Evangelical, and son of the late Evangelical Bishop of Liverpool, has just been made by Lord Salisbury, Bishop of Exeter. The new Bishop of Liverpool, Dr. Chavasse, is Evangelical, and has announced that he will perform no Episcopal function for clergymen who violate the law and seal at naught the decisions of the Archbishops. Further, Mr. Ritchie, the new Home Secretary, has pronounced against the Romanisers, and he declares that legislation in this Parliament will be necessary unless the extreme Ritualists mend their ways. These are small gains, perhaps, but they are gains, and better than nothing.

Lord Strathcona has delivered his inaugural address as Lord Rector of Aberdeen University. This is the first time such an honor has been conferred upon a Canadian, and in Lord Strathcona's case it is considered a deserved recognition of the public services of the Scotchman who entered the employ of the Hudson Bay Company in boyhood and is now High Commissioner for the Dominion. Lord Strathcona has offered to donate \$125,000 to the funds of the University, provided double this sum is raised from other sources.

The authorities of the British Museum have recently secured the exhaustive collection of 20,000 moths from Western China which formed part of the collection of the late Mr. J. H. Leach, and is the finest collection of lepidoptera in the world. The Museum paid \$5,000 for the right to choose what they desire from the collection, which will be about 12,000 specimens. Mr. Leach had specimens of several moths not to be found in any other collection extant. Sir George Hampson, Bart., who classified the moths of India for the Indian government some years ago, will make the choice and arrange them in the British Museum collection. The work will occupy about twelve months.

Sincere sorrow was, says a Kirkealdy correspondent of the Scottish American Journal, felt throughout the district on the 2nd inst., when it became known that the Rev. J. C. Baxter, D. D., was dead. The reverend gentleman, who was a man of high scholarly attainments, began his ministry as pastor of Wishart church, Dundee, more than fifty years ago, and spent the larger part of his long and gifted ministry in that sphere. He afterwards became the first pastor of Stanley street congregation, Montreal, and also deeply endeared himself to that congregation, giving them effective assistance in overcoming their special difficulties, and on return to Scotland again he left behind him a splendid name throughout the denomination in the Dominion. Dr. Baxter's next and last sphere of labor was at Kirkealdy, where he became the pastor of the new church in connection with the United Presbyterian church in Loughborough road.

At a recent Thursday meeting in the City Temple, Dr. Parker made the following characteristic reference to the leaving of Rev. Campbell Morgan for the United States:—It is too bad. It seems to me that America would take away from us all our best preachers, teachers, and evangelists, if it could; and yet America in doing so is quite right. I begrudge this last Christian burglary. Words fail me, but what they fail in I believe they will have in strength. England ought not to have let Mr. Campbell Morgan go. Poor, old, sleepy England! Give me Campbell Morgan, John M. Neill, W. R. Lane, and several captains and colonels of the Salvation Army and we should do a great work, if the churches were united and enthusiastic in the matter. I do not want these brethren to go. The whole place will be colder and barer without them, they are so gracious, so devout, so full of the best faculty for Christian work. Can we stand by and watch some of our best and strongest men go to other fields? I will say to my dear friend Campbell Morgan, as he sits in front of me today, Go, with our blessing; go, with our confidence; and may God's great benediction rest upon you, and when you have had a long, blessed day yonder, may there be a light for you at eventide.