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Note and Comment.

Queen Victoria was for a long period the only royal lady living who could write as well with her left hand as with her right.

Throughout France suicide seems to have been increasing for some time. In the five years ended January 1st 1901, the number of suicides was no less than 27,000.

Edward VII seems determined to work overtime as hard as if he were paid extra. This sort of King will make the republican idea more tottery than ever in the old country.

At a meeting of the ladies held recently at the Cape of Good Hope, it was decided to found a scholarship for girls as a South African memorial to the late Queen Victoria.

In view of the recent war activity in various directions, the Government have decided to reinforce Lord Kitchener by 30,000 mounted troops beyond those already landed in Cape Colony.

It is reported that Ira D. Sankey is about to establish a training school for Gospel singers in America, and if it succeeds, he may return to Britain to found one there if his idea is favorably received.

Glasgow is the second city now in the United Kingdom. In the matter of the city municipal improvement it is in the lead. It is expected that the census of 1901 will show "greater Glasgow" with a population above 1,000,000.

Following closely on the retreat of Principal Rainy comes the resignation in Edinburgh of Prof. Wardrop from the Chair of Dogmatics. Prof. Wardrop is an exceedingly old man, but in the opinion of his Church holds a deservedly high place.

It is reported that the malady from which the Empress Frederick is suffering is dropsy combined with an incurable disease of the kidneys. Although Her Majesty's medical advisers are doing all they can to reduce the pain, they regard a fatal issue as unavoidable.

The Empress Dowager of China has at last consented to the various executions demanded by the Powers, and these are being carried out this week. Beyond that the solution of the Chinese problem is by no means bright. Nothing has been agreed upon regarding the indemnity to be paid.

The Presbyterian Committee which has been considering the revision of the Westminster Confession of Faith has unanimously agreed that some change is advisable, but cannot agree as to its exact nature or extent. Two reports, a majority and a minority, will therefore be presented to the General Assembly when that body meets in Philadelphia in May.

On the part of the Directors of the Pan-American Exposition, to be held at Buffalo this year, there is as yet the lack of any assurance that it shall not be open on the Sabbath. It is well that such an assurance should be given speedily, that God-fearing manufacturers and exhibitors may decide what relation they will bear to it.

The "father" of the English Bar, Mr. Valentine Woodhouse, died at Aldbury, near Guildford on 4th ult. He was ninety-four years of age, and was called at the Inner Temple in 1829. He was an apostle of the Catholic Apostolic Church founded by Edward Irving about seventy years ago, and was the sole survivor of the original twelve apostles.

How many people know that Queen Victoria once conducted a Bible class? Long ago when the Queen was staying in London, she would call together the little children of her married servants in one of the private rooms of Buckingham Palace and read the Bible to them. At the close of the reading Her Majesty would explain the chapter, and children's hymns were sung.

It is learned from an official source, that the visit to Ottawa of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Cornwall and York, will take place in the middle of September, says the Montreal Herald's correspondent. An intimation of this effect has, it is understood, been received at the Vice Regal residence here. After touring the Dominion he will go to Newfoundland, sailing from there for England about the middle of October. About one month, therefore, will be spent in Canada and Newfoundland.

The attempt last week of the Irish M. P. to introduce Erse or Irish Gaelic into the British Parliament was more picturesque and amusing than practical; but really it was only intended as an annoyance. If Irish secession were permitted, and a Parliament were established in Dublin, no rational man supposes that Erse would be the language used therein. The outbreak of Erse at Westminster is, therefore, obviously intended as an irritant and nothing more.

It is not generally known, says the Free Lance, that our late Queen, in her own private chapel, never used a hymn-book. All the hymns for the Sunday services had to be written out for her by an old and trusted servant who had done this duty for years. The gentleman in question had been attached to the late Queen's household for more than half a century, and wrote a hand like copper-plate. So used had Queen Victoria become to his writing that she would not let any other servant undertake the duty, even when this writer became old and the writing more onerous than it was years before.

Queen Victoria, a few months since, had a conversation at Osborne House with one of the clergy of the Isle of Wight. She said to him, "I hope you get on well with the Nonconformists, Mr. ———. You will have to get on with them in Heaven, you know."

An experiment is being tried in twenty army corps of the Russian Army to wean the soldiers from the use of alcoholic drinks. From October 20 the sale of spirits, beer, and all such-like drinks has been forbidden in the canteens. On the days when the soldiers are allowed grog they are asked whether they would not rather have better rations instead of their grog. The recruits entering the Army are warned of the dangers of drinking alcohol, and are recommended to become total abstainers.

The Rev. Dr. John Lee, principal of Edinburgh University, was often in the habit of complaining of his bad health. In fact, he seemed to take a delight in talking about his illness, with a slight touch of a grumble. One of the professors met him one morning, and asked how he was, hoping that he felt better. "Far from it," said the principal; "I haven't slept for a fortnight." "Come now, principal," was the answer, "You're certainly getting better." The last time we met you had not slept for six weeks."

The death of the Queen of England has been a boon to France. In one place alone 5,000,000 francs' worth of orders for mourning goods were received in the week following her demise. Nearly all the stocks of ribbons on hand in France have been sent out, and an immense amount of dead stock of other colors has been changed to black by a process of rapid, dry dyeing. Meanwhile extensive orders are coming in for fabrics appropriate for the coronation of Edward VII. Strikes have been composed because of the revival of business, and in other sections new strikes are threatened unless wages are raised.

It is too early, writes a London correspondent of the Manchester Guardian, to begin to estimate the measure of success which is likely to attend the great Simultaneous Mission of the Evangelical Free Churches. But at least this can be said—it has begun well. So far as can be judged, the denominational sentiment has been nowhere, and the common good has been sought everywhere. The plans have been prepared with great care, and everything has been done which human organization can do to ensure success. Throughout the kingdom about 2,000 missionaries will apparently be employed, in addition to those who in their own localities prefer to do their own work and to be their own missionaries. They believe, as the late John White, the noted evangelist in Belfast once put it, to have the revival in their churches on fifty two Sundays in the year rather than at special seasons, and yet if Mr. White had been here to-day, with what energy he would have sought the success of the Simultaneous Mission.