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## Notes of the Week.

Dr. Snyder, of the American Southern Presbyterian Mission, who arrived at Liverpool lately from the Congo region, reports that he had penetrated into the interior for over a thousand miles, and had discovered a new lake, which was many miles long, and so broad that his eye could not trace its width.

References have been made in the newspapers to excesses committed by Japanese troops in Formosa, and they have also been denied. Now the Rev. Duncan Ferguson, English Presbyterian Mission, Tainanfoo, Formosa, sends to the *Presbyterian*, London, England, a long and distressing account of the condition of the island. He charges the Japanese troops with persecution and outrage of peaceful inhabitants.

There has just been published by T. & T. Clark, "The Life of James McCosh: A Record Chiefly Autobiographical," edited by William Milligan Sloane, of which the Rev. Dr. T. L. Cuyler remarks that, "to hundreds of the Alumni of Princeton this volume will be a treasure. They will hear in it the ringing of the old college bell. They will see the lines of students marching across the campus to evening prayer and trooping into the chapel. Upon the platform mounts the stooping form of grand old 'Uncle Jimmy'; and in his broad and not camelodious Scotch accent, he pours out his big, warm, heart in prayer. With honest pride in their Alma Mater they will thank God that they were trained for the battle of life by James McCosh."

Apropos of bicycling accidents, which are now neither few nor slight, it would be worth the while of our City Council to take note of and follow the method adopted in the Austrian capital with cyclists. The danger to the public caused by cycling there is greatly lessened by the regulation forbidding any cyclist to go into the streets without having first passed an examination in mounting and dismounting, back-peddalling, and, in short, complete control over his machine. His certificate has to be produced whenever called for, with his photograph attached, that it may not be transferred.

There are in the United States 232,295 dealers in distilled and fermented liquors, or one dealer to every 295 of the population. This is a decrease from the figures of 1894 when there were 241,419 dealers in this liquid poison. There is in these figures every incentive for Christian people to continue their warfare against the saloon. Prohibition, while it may not absolutely prohibit, is a great element in reducing the consumption of liquor, as is evidenced by the fact that including all the duly authorized State liquor agents and druggists in the State of Maine, there is only one dealer to 579 of the population, while in California there is one to every ninety-nine of the population, and in Nevada, one to every seventy-five.

All interested in such things have heard again and again of the monster petition prepared under the auspices of the W.C.T.U. of the world, to be presented to most of the world's Governments protesting against the traffic in opium and spirituous liquors. It has for some time been lost sight of, but now it is announced that the Queen has signified her willingness to receive a petition protesting against the traffic in opium and spirituous liquors, to

which document are appended 7,000,000 signatures. The names were collected by the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the names of Miss Frances E. Willard, President of the World's Women Christian Temperance Union, and Lady Henry Somerset, President of the British Women's Christian Temperance Union, heading the list.

Labour Day is now one of the days of great and growing significance from year to year. The appearance presented by the procession on that day through the streets of the city was such as could not fail to impress every beholder with the fact that labour, in the sense of manual labour, and labouring men are very fast getting to understand their enormous power. We have no fear of this so long as our population is sober, industrious and moral, and wisely led. All men who are doing anything for the world are workers in it with head or hands or both, and there should be amongst all toilers, whether of brain or hand, only the best understanding, the kindest feeling and good-wishes, for the prosperity and happiness of the one are inseparably bound up in the prosperity and happiness of the other.

The Rev. Mr. Ramseyen, missionary in Ashanti, of the Basel Society, speaking of the result of British rule in that country says: "In Ashanti there has been such an upturning of things as I never dreamt of. Kumassi, the capital, is, in fact, a picture of what has taken place all over Ashanti. As one that dreams I stand in the street. Where there was formerly a whole complex system of houses and streets, everything is cleared away, and a number of labourers are busy taking out the roots of the fetish trees that have been cut down under which so many poor creatures were slaughtered. The Place of Skulls hard by the market place is cleared. Only a beautiful row of trees remains. The people were so glad when I told them that the missionaries would now remain in Kumassi, and that now the time of peace had come. They told us that the whole country rejoiced at the arrival of the English. Everyone wished it, but no one could have dared to say so."

Toronto is just now en fête. Banners and streamers, ornamented shop windows, throngs of people, sightseers and strangers from far and near, noisy cars rushing along in quick succession, and all the other vehicles which crowd our streets make a busy and noisy scene. But the crowning attraction came on Monday in the person of Li Hung Chang, whose tour of the world may be said to wind up with Canada. His yellow jacket, peacock feathers, umbrella and sedan chair, his pipe and tobacco, servants, sons and retinue have all been here and have all been seen, stared and wondered at by hundred and thousands. Great numbers have been introduced to him, and it must be said that according to all accounts he has shown an unfailing geniality and the good humour of a polished gentleman, and so far as that was possible in the circumstances, has made hosts of friends, or to say the least, given pleasure to hosts. All will join in wishing his Excellency a safe journey home. What will come out of it all now remains to be seen, and the outcome, there can hardly but be something significant if Li's life is spared, will be watched with much interest and expectancy. If with the Japanese war, this world tour, and still more with the introduction and spread throughout the empire of Christianity, China should waken up, and take a start at all like that which

Japan has taken, then a new power in the world's movements will have to be reckoned with, whose character no one can see, but whose vast importance for good or ill the duller can at once understand must be very great.

We hear it often said, and it is very generally believed, that a large part of the ill-feeling against England, which undoubtedly exists among certain classes in the United States, is owing to the teaching given the youth in their school histories. A writer in the *Christian World* takes the ground that it is not the school books that do the mischief, and adds truly, "the history of every country must tell the story of its wars." We are told that "one of the most extensively used school histories of the United States, Mr. John Fiske's, plainly declares that the Revolutionary War was waged not against England, but against George III. Says Mr. Fiske: 'In that struggle the people of England were not our enemies; we had nowhere better friends than among the citizens of London, and on the floors of the House of Commons and the House of Lords.' It is to the journalists and newspapers that the source of the bad feeling is traced. It is said, "some of them for trade reasons, some to catch the Irish vote, some to make a point against the administration by misrepresenting its foreign policy, are responsible for whatever suspicion of England or alienation from her friendship is still discoverable in any portion of the American people." We can well believe this, and it goes to show what a tremendous responsibility rests upon journalists in these days, and how necessary it is that they should be men who act under a due sense of all that this responsibility involves.

For some time a Court of Inquiry of the University of Aberdeen has been engaged in hearing evidence *pro* and *con* and investigating charges brought by the students of his class against the Rev. Dr. Johnston, professor in the University of Biblical Criticism. The charges brought by the students were mainly of incompetency to teach, and not taking up and dealing with recent views upon this important subject. Counter charges were brought by the professor against the students of "ungodliness and conspiracy." While the students may not have conducted themselves with the propriety and respect toward a professor which is expected of them, they have yet in substance been acquitted of the charges against them. The professor has not fared so well. The committee have found that the first complaint preferred against Dr. Johnston—viz., that "he is unmethodical in the treatment of the subject of which he is professor"—has been established. The committee go on to say that Dr. Johnston, "whatever other merits he possesses, fails almost entirely to possess the first essential for a teacher," which they define as "the faculty of communicating knowledge in such a form that students can benefit by it." The result of the whole inquiry as regards the professor is that the court recommends that Professor Johnston should be retired from his charge on a suitable retiring allowance. The report was received, and consideration deferred for a month. Dr. Johnston has intimated that if the report be carried he will appeal to the Privy Council, a course which is not in the least likely to improve matters, if it does not even make them much worse. There is in this whole matter a hint to all professors, both to keep themselves thoroughly up, and also to study well the art of imparting instruction.

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Bishop Hopkins: Prayer is a golden key which should open the morning and lock up the evening.

Charles Hodge: The Judge of all the earth will do right. No human being will suffer more than he deserves, or more than his own conscience will recognize as just.

Hugh Miller: Prayer is so mighty an instrument that no one has thoroughly mastered all its keys. They sweep along the infinite scale of man's wants and God's goodness.

F. W. Farrar: Little self-denials, little honesties, little passing words of sympathy, little nameless acts of kindness, little silent victories over favorite temptations—these are the silent threads of gold which, when woven together, gleam out so brightly in the pattern of life that God approves.

Presbyterian Witness. Amusements, entertainments—what are they in this very earnest and awful life of ours, with its tragedies, rebellions, wars, disasters, cruelties! It becomes us to clothe ourselves with the whole armor of faith; with perfect loyalty to God and to our highest convictions. God should be in all our thoughts.

Joseph Parker, D.D.: I made myself servant to all that I might gain the more. This is the secret of success in life. The Apostle lives for his work, and in his work he is willing to make any effort, if by so doing he may gain one soul. To the Jew who reverences the law, he says there is nothing in the universe except law. We will tabernacle together on the skirts of Sinai. To those that are without law, he says that instinct, that intuition of yours, the searching gaze into the past, the darkling glance into the future—I claim them as the gift of God. From that point we can proceed together. He is the servant of all that he may gain the more.

New York Observer: The demagogue and the pedagogue have always been at war. The demagogue who leads the people without teaching them is the natural foe of the pedagogue, who leads the people by teaching them. The demagogue is he who applies to his pigmy self the old monopolistic assumption, "I am the state!" while the pedagogue contends for the idea of "res publica," or a public interest and good. The two social factors accordingly can have nothing in common, since the motives of the one are entirely selfish and self-centred, while the other labours constantly for the introduction of a higher intellectual and moral idea.

Herald and Presbyterian: The great need of our human society is moral renovation. Men need to have new hearts. There is light in the world. There is enough light and knowledge to make this world entirely different from what it is. The condemnation is that light is come into the world, and that men love darkness better than light. Their hearts being wrong, their lives are wrong, and their lives being wrong, their hearts are corrupt. Moral natures being evil, their deeds are evil. There is not the excuse that men do not know better. They do know better. The sin that is around us is against light and knowledge as well as against God and holiness. God's law is light. It enlightens and teaches us what we are to be and what we are to do.