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Note and Comment.

On the subject of the famine in India the Viceroy reports that the number of persons in receipt of relief has fallen to 206,000.

Presbyterian pastors of Philadelphia have adopted a petition asking the Pan-American managers to close the exposition on Sunday.

The Congo forest dwarfs, who pay their taxes in elephants, zebras, and other wild animals, are bent on paying a visit to King Edward.

The British steamer Ophir, on which the Duke and Duchess of York will sail for Australia, is being fitted out with a wireless telegraphy plant.

A scene of great enthusiasm was witnessed at the banquet given in London by Lord Strathcona to Col. Steele, the officers and men of the Strathcona Horse.

It is said that the Kaiser has directed that no known Freemason shall be promoted to the higher grades in the public services, or to the superior grades in the army.

It is singular to note the dates of the deaths of the Queens. Queen Elizabeth died in 1603, Queen Anne in 1702 and Queen Victoria in 1901—each at the beginning of a new century.

The full title of the King of England is King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the Colonies and Dependencies thereof; Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

Owing to prolonged illness Professor Tait, of the Chair of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, has intimated his resignation, after a distinguished service extending over forty years.

The over-sea trade of Great Britain increased last year by three hundred and eighteen million dollars over that of 1899. That does not indicate that Britain is suffering from the competition of either the United States or Germany.

There has been no funeral procession in connection with a British monarch for 140 years. The last was at the funeral of George II, who died on Oct. 25th, 1760, and was buried with great pomp at Westminster Abbey. All succeeding monarchs were buried at Windsor.

Missionaries in the famine district of India saved from death about 25,000 children who are now under the care of the various missionaries and who must be fed and clad, and trained for lives of usefulness. The missionaries have the courage to undertake this task of caring for the great army of little ones, Churches at home will surely give all needed support.

The movement for the expropriation of the Island of Anticosti for military purposes is again active, the request for the expropriation of the island, which was forwarded to the Imperial authorities, having been returned to the Governor-General for the Dominion to deal with.

The late Queen had nine children, but only six survived her. Nine grandchildren also passed away, leaving thirty-one, and thirty-seven great-grandchildren. One of the latter, Princess Fedora, is married. The Queen's living descendants at the time of her death numbered seventy-four.

During the last three seasons surveying parties have been engaged in endeavoring to find a feasible route for a railway on Canadian territory only to give communication with Yukon from a point on an existing Canadian railway, and also from a Canadian port on the Pacific coast and the approximate cost of the road. The chief engineer says that he is able to say from the information gained so far that a practicable line can be built at a reasonable cost.

Preaching in the ancient St. Giles, Edinburgh, on Sunday, the 27th ult., Dr. Cameron Lees said—"I happened to preach at Balmoral before the last Jubilee celebrations, and when I looked at the Queen seated a few feet from me at our Scottish service, it flashed for the moment across my mind how millions of her subjects were thinking of her at that moment, making her the centre of an enthusiasm that girdled the earth, and there she was, humble and reverent as any peasant woman in any country kirk."

From Principal Marshall Lang's address at a memorial service held in the University Chapel, Aberdeen, the other day, we take the following passage:—"No, beloved Queen, we miss thee; we feel as if a heart string had been cut; but, oh, it is well; we could not have desired more than has been vouchsafed. In the unseen to which thou hast passed we greet thee with a cheer—thee now in that choir invisible whose music is the gladness of the world. Farewell, farewell; blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

The Glasgow Exhibition will be particularly strong in Scottish historical exhibits. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, who is president of the section in which the memorials will find a place, is forwarding many interesting relics of Mary Queen of Scots. Two highly valuable memorials of the fascinating personality have been promised by the Duke of Norfolk in the shape of a gold rosary and crucifix preserved by Queen Mary in her imprisonment till the day of her execution, and a pearl necklace which belonged to the Queen. Lord Elgin is contributing to the section the sword of Robert the Bruce; and many valuable relics are being obtained by the committee from the historical treasures of the Duke of Buccleuch.

The late Lord Armstrong was a man of exquisite taste and refinement, and his pet aversion was what he called the "vulgar practice of swearing."

It will probably be many years before the face of the Queen has disappeared from our coinage. It is supposed that there are something like a thousand million coins in circulation, and though gold and silver return to the Mint from whence they came, bronze coins never go back. What becomes of all the pennies is one of the mysteries that nobody can solve, and as there are hundreds of millions of coppers—though they are not, of course, coppers at all, but bronze—it is not easy to conceive how they will pass out of circulation.

A strange discussion has arisen over the Keswick Convention as to whether their tendency is to settle weak minds. Moody evidently was not in touch with them. In the current number of the "British Monthly" there are several letters on the subject from leading preachers and medical men. There is considerable divergence of opinion on the subject. Campbell Morgan thinks that there are persons who for purely mental reasons never ought to go to a Convention. Mr. Mr. F. B. Meyer thinks the tendency of the meetings has been to calm the spirit and lead to perfect peace of mind.

Among the late Sir Archibald Geikie's most interesting reminiscences on one occasion were his references to his intimacy with Hugh Miller, who first encouraged him in the study of geology. He recalled how, when visiting the author of "The Old Red Sandstone" at his house in Portobello, only a week before his death, Miller describing a visit paid to the Buchlyvie moors, recited with great gusto the lines beginning, "Buchlyvie, Buchlyvie the muckle deevil drive ye," with which Sir Walter Scott headed the seventy-eight chapter of "Rob Roy," and which are often erroneously attributed to Burns. These lines, however, were no more Sir Walter's than they were Burn's.

A writer in the "Evangelical Magazine" says that a few weeks ago, to a semi-private assembly, Dr. Parker expounded his theory of preaching with an impressiveness that almost made one tremble. Preaching is self murder. It is shedding of blood. It is the most terrible of all physical and all spiritual ordeals. It shatters a man. It is a form of martyrdom. It is cruel to expect a man to preach twice in one day. And asked the question about his method, he answered, "Extemporaneous speech after long and critical thought." This is very like the testimony of one of the greatest preachers—Spurgeon. He tells us that he seldom entered the pulpit without something like a feeling of nervous terror and positive shrinking from the ordeal. If congregations valued what all this means there surely would be among them more human sympathy as well as the manifestations of it, and more Christian forbearance.