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Note and Comment.

Dr. N. W. Hoyles, K.C., president of the Upper Canada Bible Society, and Dr. Geikie one of the oldest vice-presidents, have been chosen to represent the society at the British and Foreign Bible Society's centenary meeting in London.

Mr. George Y. Chown, registrar of Queen's University, has also been appointed treasurer, thus filling the vacancy caused by the death of the late J. B. McIvor. The salary for the combined positions will amount to nearly \$2,500. Mr. Chown is a Methodist.

Rev. Dr. Welton, Professor of Old Testament literature in McMaster University, (Baptist) Toronto, who died on the 28th February, was a native of King's County, Nova Scotia. Before going to McMaster he was connected with Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S.

To English speaking people, at least, Russia's effort to give to her struggle with Japan the aspect of a holy war for the crushing of a pagan power is of the very quaintness of hypercrisis. Remembering Poland, and Kishineff, and Finland, one finds it difficult to work up much enthusiasm in Russia's crusade.

The Russian Viceroy of Manchuria is evidently a man of stupendous faith, remarks the Presbyterian Journal. In a manifesto to the army he assured the soldiers that "God has always upheld the cause that is just, and is doing so now. God be with us. Hurrah!" Providence may be on the side of Russia, but up to the present time there is no evidence of it outside of proclamations.

An effort is being made to acclimatise the ostrich in Southern Europe, and a farm for that purpose has been started at Nice by M. Octave Justice, who has imported eighty fine specimens of the *Struthio camelus* from South Africa, which are now apparently prospering on the Azure Coast. The attempt is watched with much interest by the Parisian milliners, who are the principal users of ostrich feathers.

Mr. Rockefeller, the Standard oil magnate and multi-millionaire, is a Baptist, but that does not prevent the Religious Intelligencer of New Brunswick, the organ of the Free Baptists of Canada, indulging in the following just criticism in speaking of his rumored early retirement from active business: "It is a pity he could not retire, also, the business methods for which his name stands—the greed and mercilessness which crushes everybody and every struggling industry which stands in the way of his adding more to his many millions."

"The spade continues to be a helper of Christianity," says the Southwestern Presbyterian, in referring to the discoveries being made in Egypt as the buried historic treasures of that country are being unearthed. According to the Belfast Witness, close study of these records show that while the grossest idolatry prevailed among the common people the learned classes had surprisingly clear

conceptions of deity. They held to the belief in a Supreme Being self-existent, life-giving, omnipotent, to whom no local name was given, "he could not be figured in stone," his dwelling place was unknown, and no "heart of man (mind) could depict him."

The London Christian World announces that the Presbyterian Church of Canada has expressed its readiness to take over the entire output of students from the "Bible Training Institute" of Glasgow. After a year or two of satisfactory service in Canada the students will be licensed as probationers of that Church. Noting this the Belfast Witness says: "Canada is an enlarging field. Presbyterians from Scotland and Ulster are the bulk of its best immigrants. Our Church has a grand future in that vast Colony."

The use of liquor is declared by many people to be innocent. Its abuse, they say, is what is evil. But the trouble with the use of liquor is that it runs so easily to abuse. The abuse of reading, of conversation, of exercise, are all evils, but they are not such evils, nor are they so likely evils, as the curse of the abuse of liquor. All those who are now guilty of this abuse never intended to go so far when they began. They set out to use it in moderation. Why will young men be so foolish as to think that they can use temperately what so many stronger men have been unable to stop short of abusing intemperately?

As an instance of eternal warfare between the church and the saloon some one has discovered in the town of Paddington, England, which is blessed with fifty-nine churches and cursed with 249 public houses that out of the population of 142,690, 31,331 attended church on a recent Sunday and 122,175 went to the saloons. On this the Presbyterian Standard comments: We wonder sometimes, if our preachers are quite sensible of that first law of nature, self-preservation, and are not a little too much afraid of preaching politics, in preaching against the saloon.

The cigarette habit prevails among children in England to such an extent that attention has been called to it by a manifesto signed by some of the most prominent scientific and ecclesiastical dignitaries as well as prominent military officers and members of parliament. Unfortunately the signatories do not seem to be able to suggest any efficient check to what they say "is undoubtedly doing much to undermine the health and ruin the character of many English boys." England is not the only country in which the cigarette habit is getting in its deadly work.

Osborne House, in the Isle of Wight, where Queen Victoria died, and which was given by the King to the nation, to form a convalescent home for army and navy officers, is now almost ready for occupation. There will be accommodation for fifty patients. The place has undergone a transformation within, and sick and wounded officers will be able to recruit at one of the most delightful spots in the kingdom. Part of the estate and some of the ceremonial rooms will be open to the public; the rest of the house, excluding the late Queen's

private apartments (which will be left unaltered) will form the convalescent home. The estate comprises about 2,000 acres, and occupies both sides of a gently sloping hill, falling on the north to the Solent, and on the south to the river Medina.

The recently taken census of India reveals the interesting fact that Hinduism is declining, especially through conversions to Christianity, which has gained 600,000 converts in ten years. Some Hindus have embraced Mohammedanism, and the famine affected most terribly the Hindu districts. Even with the growth of the population, due to natural increase, there were 500,000 fewer Hindus in 1901 than ten years before. The Belfast Witness says: "In connection with this pleasing fact one is disposed to remark on the certainty and satisfaction of carrying on mission work under the protection of British power. Besides, our foremost responsibility is for the Christianising of our own territories, our own fellow-subjects." The Christian people of Canada should not lose sight of this point.

In one of his inimitable contributions to the press, Dr. Cuyler of New York says: "The firmament of Bible-history blazes with answers to effectual prayer, from the days when Elijah unlocked the heavens on to the days when petitions in the house of John Mark unlocked the dungeon and brought the liberated Peter into their presence! The early Church was born in a prayer-meeting held in that 'upper room' at Jerusalem. During my own pastoral experience the most powerful revivals in my church showed the first indications of the Holy Spirit's presence when we were 'gathered with one accord' in our devotional meeting." It is to be feared that in these days of strenuous materialism too many Christians and Christian congregations forget the place and power of prayer and thus fail to receive the precious blessings that God, the hearer and answerer of prayer, has linked with the promises made to those who "wait upon him."

Says the Christian Guardian: At the induction of the Rev. P. M. Macdonald as pastor of Cowan Avenue church, in this city the Rev. Alfred Gardier, in his charge to the new minister, commented, upon the decline in the force of family life, and the evils resulting from the absence of parental restraint upon the many young people who crowd to a large city like ours. Toronto is a church-going city, he said, but there are multitudes who never go to church. He declared his conviction that if the churches are to hold their own, they must be more aggressive, must plant new churches, and awaken old ones. His advice to the new minister was that he should be a teacher, an expositor of the Bible, and an evangelist. He had no sympathy with the preacher who made the Sunday evening service a concert to amuse the people. "I believe," he said, "that we are not sent to entertain men, but to save them; not to amuse them, but to convict them of sin." Mr. Gardier has earned the right to speak the strong, true words he did, by his own devout, intense, and eminently helpful ministry. Assuredly "we are sent, not to entertain men, but to save them."