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NOTE AND COMMENT

Ambassador Bryce, speaking to the students of the University of Kansas, told them that thoroughness was the essential thing. "Three fourths of the mistakes that a man makes," he declared, "are made because he doesn't really know the thing he thinks he knows."

What reflections are awakened about the moral and religious condition of a town, says the Presbyterian Standard, when more local paragraphs appear in its newspapers about bridge whist than about any other one thing? This question is all the more serious for the reason that gambling and drinking are come to be associated with it.

Mr. Winston Churchill tells us in his last book, "My African Journey," that Uganda is the only country he ever visited where every person of a suitable age went to church every Sunday morning. He estimates the number of native Christians in Uganda at 100,000. Mr. Churchill also says that he never saw better order or happier homes than in this central region of Africa, where a few years ago pioneer missionaries were mercilessly put to death by natives.

A great many men, it must be confessed to their shame, remarks the Lutheran World, are doing about all they do at religion in the name of their wives. They are really serving the Lord, if at all, by proxy. Considering this, it is rather true to the facts that some bright preacher has changed a line in hymn 408 in our Book of Worship to read: "Take my wife and let her be consecrated, Lord, to Thee." And that another has indulged in this bit of transformed poetry: "In the world's broad field of battle, in the bivouac of life, You will find the Christian soldier represented by his wife."

"The Home Country Gazette" is a new monthly journal published at Stratford-on-Avon, and is said to be the enterprise of a group of brilliant men and women interested alike in politics and literature. A feature of the journal is a series entitled "Letters to Little Statesmen." One each, addressed to Lord Rosebery and Mr. Asquith, have appeared, written perhaps by Marie Corelli, which is one of the group and who is announced to contribute articles and specially written stories. The "Letters" are said to be master pieces of satire and by a very able and well known writer "who for the moment preserves anonymity." I was hasty in guessing at the authorship. Miss Corelli is well known, is sarcastic, but is she very able? She has an atrocious style. The current number of the Gazette contains an article on the present political situation in England, called "The Backbone of Putty," and a story, "A Political Wobbler." A series of papers are appearing on the sources of Shakespeare's plays. The journal costs but a penny.

The Sidney (Australia) Messenger says: Talking of vestments reminds us of the much-discussed question whether Presbyterian choir girls ought to wear some kind of uniform. One learns from Canada that Ralph Connor's choir are without hats and gloves, and that in a Methodist church in Winnipeg the

choir members filed in all robed in bishop-shaped gowns, the ladies with lawn bands, but without hats or gloves. In the City Temple, London, the ladies wear a Sicilian robe of almost peacock blue, and a college cap or "mortar-board." Is it not time the Presbyterian Church faced the question of official dress for choirs? Why leave it to hazard, resulting in the total lack of uniformity? In one of our churches lately the sopranos were crowded so much that while they could find room for their shoulders they certainly could not find space for their hats. The result was, that the cart-wheel creations were somewhat "dished." Why not the bare head, and a nice robe for both men and women? If in Christ Jesus there is neither male nor female, must a woman still wear a hat in church?

Dr. Grenfell writes to the Witness: "A great event has happened so far as Labrador is concerned. The winter mail has come across in the middle of March, from Forteau in Labrador to Flower's Cove, in Newfoundland. Never before in the history of manking has this feat been accomplished, and it is only due to the enterprising postmaster-general and to the brave man who brought the mail, to say that it is of very much greater import and a very much greater feat in their caps than most men imagine. One great objection to the Labrador residence in winter has been the supposed impossibility of getting out from Christmas to May, and as far as the north end of this country is concerned, the impossibility of getting any news from our colleagues and friends and the impossibility of making any arrangements with them for the coming fishing season. A mail coming across regularly in the winter at the trifling cost of a few dollars is now not only clearly demonstrated as possible for once, but that it could be run fairly regularly and with comparative safety. Moreover, it is a new feature in physiography to know that a single man, without running any inordinate risk, can pass the straits with a light boat practically any time in the winter."

At a meeting of the American Society for the Study of Alcohol and Other Drug Narcotics, held recently in Philadelphia, some remarkable statements were made by scientists from all parts of the country. Dr. T. A. MacNicholl, of New York, is authority for declarations with regard to his own city that are almost unbelievable, but which are so corroborated from other sources that they must be accepted as fact. According to Dr. MacNicholl, less than twenty-four per cent. of the children under sixteen in Greater New York are receiving religious or moral instruction, and in certain sections of the city at least half of the school children are beer drinkers. Last year, though but a small percentage of the youthful offenders against the law were apprehended, one child in every seventy-five was arrested for a criminal offense, and sixteen arrests of children were made every day for major crimes! Conditions are apparently growing worse instead of better. "More than three years ago," said Dr. MacNicholl, "I reported that 66 per cent. of the school children examined by me were physically defective, and this percentage was corroborated by a subsequent report of the New York Board of Education. In the New York city superintendent's recent report we find that in spite of an energetic corps of doctors and nurses, and the correction of thousands of defective eyes, ears, throats and noses, the percentage of defective children has increased to 75 per cent."

In the death of Samuel L. Clemens the world loses more than the great est of modern humorists. Broad sym-

pathy, wide tolerance, together with a peculiar capacity to penetrate shams and distinguish the true from the false, characterize the true humorist. Mark Twain had a varied experience. Brought up on the banks of the Mississippi, he knew the river and loved it from his childhood. He knew boy life as he described it in "Tom Sawyer." A tramp printer, a river pilot, for a short time a soldier of the Confederacy, a gold hunter in a rough camp, a newspaper man, a lecturer, a traveler welcomed by the great men of all nations, few men have known so much of so many kinds of life. What he saw of life he understood better than most men, and what he understood he could describe in a manner that entertained thousands of audiences and hundreds of thousands of readers. As well known, and, if possible, more highly appreciated in England than in America, his works have been translated and widely read in German, French and other languages. A bankrupt in his old age through the failure of the publishing house of Charles L. Webster and Co., he returned to the distasteful life of lecture platform in order that he might pay more than a hundred thousand dollars of debts of the firm for which he was not legally responsible. He succeeded in his undertaking and accumulated a large fortune besides. It is said that for the last ten years his books have given him an annual income of from \$40,000 to \$50,000. The only heir to this fortune is his daughter, Mme. Ossip Gabrilowitsch. His books, however, belong to the world, and because of them it is a pleasanter world to live in.

Germany seems to be adopting the principle of taxing the unearned increment of land values. The municipalities are already collecting about \$125,000,000 annually from this source, and a bill is now before the Reichstag whereby six per cent. of this shall find its way into the imperial treasury. The notable thing about this measure is that it is not presented by the Socialistic party, but is put forth by the government as part of its policy. It is rather startling to notice the number of projects and principles, first advocated by socialists, which have already found their way into the accepted order of things.

Appropos of this is an item from The Advance: "In the city of London at least one person in every four will die in the workshop, hospital or lunatic asylum. This seems a startling statement, but it is taken from an official report. Charles Booth, who made a thorough study of the population of London, says that not quite one per cent. of the people are occasional laborers, loafers and semi-criminals; 7.5 per cent. are casual laborers, in chronic want; and 22.3 per cent. may be classed as poor. These three classes, forming over 30 per cent. of the total population, are on or below the poverty line. In addition, there are about 100,000 inmates of workhouses, hospitals, prisons and industrial schools. Thus in the British metropolis there are almost 1,400,000 people who feel the grinding heel of poverty. And what about the children in these classes? Are they being properly cared for? Are they being educated? To allow such an army of youngsters to grow up in ignorance, to be followed by other similar armies, would be a crime against the nation and against humanity. The government forces the children to attend school, and if they are hungry it has to feed them. This is the hard logic of the situation. It is distasteful to most of the councilmen, who were elected on a platform strongly opposed to all forms of Socialism; but in the face of the terrible poverty of the families from which these children come, theories collapse and policies are lost sight of. Logic is powerless when confronted by hungry children."