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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Dr. J. Oswald Dykes, Principal of Westminster College, has intimated his intention of resigning his position at next year's meeting of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England. He was appointed Principal in 1888, and is in his 71st year.

Civil service reform is one of the most unpopular principles in the world in the minds of politicians. Yet every one of them is afraid to say that he is against it. The cowardice of politicians touching civil service reform is a tribute to civil service reform that cannot be over-estimated.

The spade of the excavator in Egypt has recently brought to the surface a papyrus fragment which contains the greater part of Zechariah and Malachi in the Septuagint text, and its date is approximately the seventh century. The find has been added to the collection owned by the great University of Heidelberg.

A despatch announces that Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P., for Cockermonth, Cumberland, died on Sunday in London, aged 77 years. His death removes from the House of Commons an historical and attractive personality. Best known to the world at large as an indefatigable temperance advocate, he was a man of many talents and good works.

At the annual meeting of the Hudson's Bay Company Lord Strathcona reported a prosperous year. All the employees were given a bonus of ten per cent. on their salaries. In spite of the increasing difficulties of fur-trading, he advised his hearers to hold their shares, with the confidence born of the 36 years' existence of the company.

Boston is preparing for an evangelistic series of meetings in the fall, beginning the latter part of October and lasting for at least a month. Gipsy Smith is to come from London and lead the meetings and it is hoped that the interest will spread all over New England. Preliminary meetings will be held during October. An executive committee of fifteen has the matter in charge.

The Syrian Protestant College of Beirut, Syria, has 700 students, says the Herald and Presbyter. It has seven departments. The Bible is made a part of the study. The thousand graduates occupy positions of commanding influence as civil and military physicians and pharmacists, lawyers, judges, teachers, preachers, editors, authors and merchants. This institution is doing a splendid work in moulding the opinion of the East.

Has your minister had a holiday? Give him one. It will not only do him good, but will do his people good, too. If no other arrangement can be made, an exchange with a brother minister will afford a degree of needed rest, and when the pastor has his outing his congregation can make it more enjoyable by seeing that it costs him very little in anything. The average salary does not permit much, if any, vacation expenditure.

Greater New York is the greatest Y. M. C. A. center in the world. It has more than forty organizations and 20,000 members; it has 400 secretaries and employees, and 2,800 of its members are office holders and committeemen. Its latest building, the Twenty-third Street Branch, cost \$1,000,000, and has 3,000 members. Branch associations are located in all parts of the city, and are extending up into the Bronx and out into the parks of Brooklyn.

There is much that is not understood about electricity. A wireless telegraph expert recently received a shock of 25,000 volts, and while knocked unconscious soon revived. He experienced a temporary paralysis which soon passed away. Ordinarily 1,000 volts produce death, and less than 2,000 are used in the execution of criminals. There are, therefore, peculiar conditions not fully understood; and under some circumstances a voltage will probably produce death, which in most instances would be harmless.

The Queen of England is the only married woman in the United Kingdom who is made responsible by the law for her own debts. Her creditors have no claims whatever upon her husband. Any other married woman has the privilege of having things charged to "John" or "Edward" or "William," but the poor Queen must foot her own accounts, millinery and otherwise. So there are drawbacks even in wearing a crown. The reason for this is found in the law which makes it impossible to sue a King for money.

The Christian Science people have built and dedicated a splendid church in Boston, costing about two million dollars, one of the finest church structures in the continent. Some people seem to think they see in this an evidence of the growing influence and strength of Edgelyism, but perhaps an opposite view is more nearly the correct one. Christian Science is losing its grip, and it seeks to lay its hand upon the future by a splendid building that will last through the centuries. The building will abide, no doubt, but it will abide as the monument of one of the sublime follies of the human heart and intellect.

To undermine and overthrow the Christian religion was the unholy ambition of Voltaire. He boasted of his ability to do it, and to that end devoted himself and all the powers he could command. He sometimes realized the herculean task he had undertaken, and once in an hour of discouragement he is reported to have said: "I despair of destroying Christianity in any country, so long as millions of people meet on Sunday to worship God." The importance of the Christian Sabbath could not be more clearly conceded and declared by an enemy. Canadian Christians just now, when secularizing influences are aggressive and strong opposition is being made to the Lord's Day bill which Parliament is asked to enact, need to stand strongly for the preservation of the sacredness of the one day in seven which God has set apart for rest and public worship.

Baron Goto, of Japan who has been the active administrative officer of Formosa, has recently written an article for an English paper which contains some statements most important if true. He says the Chinese in Formosa manifest little capability for government; they make good policemen only when in charge of Japanese. They do not like the Japanese, but are contended because they are making more money, and are in every way more prosperous than under Chinese rule. But the most striking part of his statement is that the Japanese are utterly unable to understand the Chinese character. To them the Chinese are as much a mystery as to us. This can not be set down to any lack of Japanese ability to understand other peoples. The Chinese seem a people apart from others, separated by centuries of isolation. Nevertheless, they are accepting Japanese leadership in military organization, and are filling Japanese schools with their students.

Lutheran Observer: It is the men who have faith in goodness, in truth, in the right, and anchor themselves to it, even on the lower plane of merely natural feeling and acting, that grow strong, get nerve and sinew for effort, climb to the upper levels of human life and carry off its prizes and its joys.

Referring to the recent visit to the city of a former well-known pastor the Free Press says: "The Rev. Dr. C. B. Pitblado, who retired from the active pastoral work of Westminster Presbyterian church about a year ago, to recruit his health in California, and whose return was welcomed by his friends a month ago, conducted the communion service at his old church on Sunday morning. The Rev. C. Mackinnon opened the service, and the address was given by Dr. Pitblado. The number of communicants present was about four hundred. The total number of members on the church roll is now 387, a larger membership than the church has ever had in the past."

A Japanese evangelist held a series of mission meetings in an important town in Japan for Christians and inquirers after Christianity. There were some remarkable confessions of sin. One young man of twenty, an inquirer, confessed that four years previously he had set fire to a house, had done various petty pilfering, and caused the death of two children. He boldly went to the police station and told the whole story, including the fact that through the power of the Gospel of Christ he had been led to confess. He is a railway telegraph operator, and now spends all spare time, going from place to place on the railway, telling of the Gospel of the Grace of God.

Of the Torrey-Alexander meetings lately concluded at Atlanta, Ga., the 'Baptist Argus' says: "Many hundreds of conversions have been recorded and thousands of Christians have been awakened to higher service. Many drunkards were reclaimed, stolen money was returned, debts have been paid, card parties, dancing and theatres have been given up by many Christians, and the whole city has been stirred as never before. Many notable conversions have been witnessed and a number of prominent men are among the converts. All classes of people became enthusiastic as soul-winners. Mr. and Mrs. Alexander return to England soon and will spend the summer resting in Switzerland. Mr. Torrey will spend his summer resting in Canada, at Northfield and visiting different Bible conferences."

On the site of a Shinto temple at Nagasaki, Japan, a Y. M. C. A. building has just been erected, costing 24,000 yen. When this temple was sold on mortgage foreclosure the association bought it, as it was located in the most slightly and central position in the city. At the opening banquet the governor of the province, mayor of the city, president of the city council, the managing director of four banks, not one of whom was a Christian, but all of whom gave to the purchase of the building, were present. The Russian, Chinese and British consuls were also given and movers in the undertaking. Within six months the membership of the Tokio, Japan, association has increased from 484 to 1,008. Marchioness Oyama and Lady McDonald, wife of Sir Claude McDonald, are active leaders in the women's auxiliary of the Tokio (Japan) Young Men's Christian Association. A Russian lady was the star performer at a concert recently arranged by them to secure funds to purchase a piano for the association.