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NOTE AND COMMENT

Order issued by Chinese government at Tungan, near Amoy, China, that opium poppies should no longer be planted was followed by a riot.

What is claimed to be a perfect cure of alcoholism by hypnotism was accomplished by the Rev. Thomas Casady, Episcopalian, on a man named Lavean at Des Moines, Ia.

Mr. Wilbur Wright, in a recent trial of his flying machine in France, reached the height of 360 feet in a strong wind. He maintained himself in the air nearly two hours, which is the best record yet made.

In eight years the number of Protestants in Austria has increased 42,000. Last year more than 1,950 persons declared themselves Protestants. However, the Roman church is using the press, tracts and public meetings most vigorously in opposition to conversion.

According to the latest reports of the trustees of the Universalist General Convention that denomination is not growing. There are now 912 parishes, composed of 54,257 families, with 51,743 church members; contributions for all purposes, \$1,127,775. Last year's reports showed 925 parishes, nearly 56,250 families, 53,158 church members, and contributions, \$1,392,519.

Germans will attempt the establishment of systematic airship service between twenty-two cities. Seven airships will be built by a new company. For conservative Germans to become pioneers in development that means death, danger, and repeated disaster before success is attained seems strange. The world will watch with interest, but will not hasten to Frankfort-on-the-Main to test the service.

At the Vatican, December 13, the decree of beatification of Joan of Arc, who was burned by ecclesiastical authority in Rouen in 1431, was read in the hall of the consistory amid one of the most impressive ceremonials of the Roman Church. The beatification is a preliminary process to the canonization, which, in the case of "the Maid of Orleans" is expected to take place next Easter.

The Mormons are diligently at work in Norway. At a recent meeting in Christiania four hundred persons were enrolled. The president of Scandinavian missions and thirty-three missionaries from Utah were in attendance. A campaign will be inaugurated throughout Europe where it is reported that 2,000 missionaries are at work teaching Mormon doctrines and endeavoring to induce people to migrate to Utah. Their headquarters seem to be in Norway.

The Greek Synod has dethroned Damianos, the Greek patriarch of Jerusalem, who declined to resign. The patriarch favored reforms for his native flock, which were denied under the old Turkish regime, and were opposed by the Synod because they would have reduced considerably the Church revenues, over which it has complete control. The Turkish authorities have sent troops to guard the patriarch in his palace, pending the receipt of instructions from Constantinople.

The British Parliament has been prorogued until Feb. 18. A considerable amount of work was accomplished at the fall session, and many minor measures passed. The most important measures of the Parliament have failed through the veto of the House of Lords, and the breach between the two houses is continually widening. The time is not far distant when the House of Lords must be "mended or ended."

During my recent tour in the Far East I formed the deep conviction that if the present work on the part of the co-operating missions in Korea is adequately sustained and enlarged in the immediate future, Korea will be the first nation in the non-Christian world to become a Christian nation. I know of no mission field where larger or more substantial results have been secured, in proportion to the expenditure, than in Korea.—John R. Mott.

With reference to the proposed commemoration next year of the Ulster Revival of 1859, says the Belfast Witness, it is interesting to know that Principal Edwards, of Cardiff, declares that by far the greater part of the converts made during the recent Welsh Revival have stood firm, and can be accounted for today. He refers also to "an honoured minister of the United 'Free Church of Scotland,' who has planted no fewer than forty churches during his long ministry, and declares that many of these churches grew out of revivals or 'missions,' and that in his experience no Christians are more steadfast than those born in such movements."

Lord Morley, the British Secretary of State for India, has proposed in the House of Lords a plan for giving the natives of India a somewhat larger share in local government. He explains that he makes no pretension of inaugurating a parliamentary government for India. That would not be wise, with its numerous races and classes; but he thinks the people can be assigned a greater share in the local government without divesting the central authority of any power. Lord Morley explains that there is no danger of anything in the nature of an uprising in India, but that there is danger of a panic through exaggerated reports of local disaffection.

Lord Guthrie, in opening the session of the U. F. Students' Association, Glasgow, gave a brilliant lecture on "Past, Present and Future." In speaking of the past, he emphasized the necessity of reading men and women of the past in their own writings and utterances, by what their contemporaries say about them, in the light of their own times, and as reflected in those who may be their living portrayals today, rather than borrow one's opinions from historians. His message for the present was to aim high, and resolve that if one is to achieve great things, it must be at the cost, not only of hard work, which is pleasant, but of much drudgery. For the future, he said, "Be optimistic." "Jesus Christ and the greatest man who ever lived, the Apostle Paul, were the greatest optimists." Pessimism he condemned as sheer blasphemy. Too much was made of the Disruption and the Secession these days. The problem for the young men and women of today was not to carefully safeguard the traditions of the past, but to build up a new Church to meet the circumstances and needs of a new age.

Servia and Montenegro hope to be able to divide the province of Novi Bazar between them, and arrange with Turkey to pay compensation. Novi Bazar is a strip of territory lying between these two provinces, and the purpose is to block the eastern advance of Austria. Austria desires a railroad to Salonica, which might run through this province, although it is not the most direct route. If she could obtain control of this province, she might be able to advance her possessions into Macedonia. This would be better for civilization and the people concerned. Servia also covets more territory. But her government is so poor that any extension of her territory is to be regretted. The Montenegrins are not much better than barbarians. Austria seems to have a peculiar faculty of dealing with these peoples, giving them good government, and protecting all classes and races. The people like it and are quiet and prosperous, unless stirred up by Servia, which is the trouble-maker of the Balkans.

The Christian, of London, has the following: Statements have recently been made that the Local Option Movement in New Zealand has received a serious "setback" at the last poll, but the official statistics which have now been received from that country show that the last "no-license" vote reveals an increase of over 100,000. It is noteworthy, too, that the no-license districts in New Zealand afford striking testimony to the rule that every limitation of the drink trade is immediately followed by a huge decrease in crime. In some of these electorates the offences due to (or likely to be influenced by) drink fell about 63 per cent., and this without any allowance being made for the growth of population. Then as regards convictions for drunkenness, four towns which have but recently come within the "no-license" influence have already shown a falling off in that class of offence of from 59 to 83 per cent. In one town to which licenses had been restored there was an increase of 255 offences the first year. As the New Zealand correspondent who furnishes these details pertinently says: "The moral is irresistible."

Professor Goldwin Smith offers the following observations on a subject at present occupying the anxious attention of British statesmen: "The aspect of things in India does not improve. Yet nothing as yet appears beyond riot and personal outrages. There is no appearance of political combination, or indeed of combination of any kind. No native prince has shown any sign of disaffection. There is no report of mutiny or sympathy with disaffection in the native army, and while the military force and all the material of war are in the hands of the government it is hardly possible that anything like a rising on a formidable scale should take place. The Radical press of England has inflamed the educated class of Hindoos which aspires to office and is now biting the hand by which its ambition has been fed. Between the conquered race and the conquerors there must be a social line, and the rough soldier does not in his intercourse with the natives show the consideration which is shown by the Englishman of the higher grade. In a land where English children cannot be reared, British empire must end. But at present, while there are serious signs of race trouble, there is no sign of political revolution."