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NOTE AND COMMENT.

England agreed to pay the Boers for certain losses in the Transvaal war. The Boer claims amount 1 to \$310,000,000. The sum of \$47,500,000 has been allowed, and the incident is closed.

The author of "The Simple Life" while in America spoke in Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist, Unitarian, Congregational, and Baptist churches, and also in a Jewish synagogue.

"The Scots' Churches in England" is the title of a volume to be published in May by Mr. K. Macleod Black, a grandson of the late Rev. Dr. Edmond, Highbury, and a nephew of the late Mr. Welliava Black, the well-known novelist.

The general introduction of street cars in English towns has diminished the consumption of beer. Workingmen on their way home to the suburbs in the evening are now carried past saloons at which they used to linger.

Growth in Japan—The increase in Christians during the year 1904 is about 10 per cent. In round numbers the Christians of Japan—Protestant, Roman Catholic and Greek—number about 154,000 church members, with a community of about 459,000.

The offer on our last page is an exceptionally good one, and only stands for a few weeks. The Dominion Presbyterian and The Pilgrim for \$1.50 to new subscribers; and a copy of The Pilgrim one year to the party sending in name and money.

"As my own very imperfect life draws towards the sunset," writes Dr. Cuyler, "I must say to my younger brethren that whatever of good I may have wrought through the press, the sweetest joy of my pastorates was the privilege of receiving two thousand souls into Christ's flock on confession of their faith in Him."

The terrible explosion in the collieries at Courrieres, France, in which 1,000 miners lost their lives, brought an expression of sympathy from a shocked world. The French Government is doing all that momey can do for the five hundred stricken homes.

The Juvenile Smoking Bill, which Dr. Islandanana has introduced into the English Parliament, provides that no persons shall sell, give, or supply tobacco in any form to, or for, the use of any person under the age of sixteen years under pendities of 20s. on a first conviction, 40s. on a second conviction, and in case of a third conviction the license of a tobaccomist would be revoked.

The pilgrimage to Mecca will soon be robbed of much of its so-called merit and mystery, when it can be accomplished on the railway that is now graded beyond the half-way line between Damaseus and the sacred city. We presume, says the Preshyterian Standard, the iron monster will follow the old pilgrimage highway. The Imperial Government has ordered the necessary plant for large engineering works a Damaseus.

An English Church reader of the British Weekly writes: May I suggest with all carnestness the desirability of republishing in a chean form for wide distribution Ian Maclaren's noble sermon on "The Macmificence of the Divine Grace." Its broadminded and charitable outlook, its spiritual insight, and its felicitous though homely expression, entitle it to rank very high among contemporary discourses. The man who gets another man to read it is doing good work for Christianity.

Miss Kuyper, daughter of Rev. Dr. A. Kuyper, Holland's former Presbyterian Prime Minister, denies most positively that Queen Wilhelmina and Prince Henry are uncongenial. The impression that they are not rests in the slander of a coachman who was dismissed, and who sought revenge by selling as news in England a cruel falsehood.

The sovereign who reins over the smallest monarchy in the world is the King of the Cocos, a group of islands near Sumatra. These islands were discovered about three hundred years ago, but were comparatively little known until 1825, when Mr. Ross, an Englishman, visited them, was struck by their beauty and took up his abode there. It is his grandson, George Reiss, who now holds sway over the Cocos.

During the wedding festivities of King Alfonso of Spain and the Princess Ena of Battenberg, Madrid will be transformed into a gigantic garden of flowers. Roses and pinks will be brought by hundreds of waggon-loads from Seville, Malaga, Valencia, Alicante, and Murcia. Grand processions in character will be organised by the students and women eigar makers, and the charming national dances will be performed by peasants from the provinces. Streams of white and red wine will flow from the fountains of Madrid in lieu of water on the day of the wedding.

The Syrian Protestant College was openedt in 1866 as a Christian college. Its aim is to educate the Syrians and those of the adjacent countries. It is a missionary college, but not connected with any board. Last year there were 750 students. There were ninety Armenians, sixty Greeks, 150 Egyptians, but the majority are Syrians. There are about 100 Moslems, forty Jews. thirty Druzes, 300 belong to the Greek Catholic church, 100 Roman Catholics, and about 120 are Protestants. There are about fifty teachers. The college has forty acres, with fourteen buildings, including hospitals and a training school for nurses. The college is exerting a potent influence upon Syria and the neighboring countries.

Hundreds and thousands of the people in the northern provinces of Japan are starving, and reduced to the eating of the roots and shrubs and the bark of trees. The public schools have been closed. The government have suspended the current taxes. But even so the conditions are desperate. The famine shows in the first place how terribly poor are the mass of the Japanese people—so poor that the failure of a single crop brings starvation to hundreds of thousands. It also shows how reticent the Japanese can be. There have been no tragic appeals. Canada has already done something to alleviate the distress, and is doing more. But the cry is urgent, and the need great.

The disputed point whether Charles Kingsley's poem "The Sands of Dee" referred to the river in Cheshire or Scotland has been settled by his daughter. To a Chester correspondent Miss Kingsley writes: "Not only did my father tell me the poem was written about the Chester Dee, but a moment's thought. I should have supposed, would show those who claim the poem for Scotland that they are in error if they read the first and second verses carefully. The Stottish Dee flows to the east. How, therefore, would it be possible for the western wind to bring up the western tide? Also, the poem was written in 1849, and at that time my father had never set foot in Scotland, though Cheshire, from which our family came originally, was well known to himily study and affection, if not by close observation."

The French Government has introduced a Sunday stamp—"le timbre dominical," which is to be used like our special delivery stamps, for delivery on Sunday. Letters not sufficiently important to call for this extra postage will be held until Monday. Belgium has already a prohibitive stamp reading: "Not to be delivered on Sunday."

John Alexander Dowie, at present in Ocotlan, Mexico, who has been deposed by his followers in Zion City, Ill., amounces that he has officially dismissed the overseers who have deposed him and taken all necessary legal steps to protect his estate and the vast interests of Zion, and that he will return to Zion immediately. From all reports he will not receive a warm welcome from the new leaders in his estatwhile capital.

It is not without significance that the World's Sunday School Convention next year is to be held in Rome. That city has ever been the stronghold of Roman Catholicism. There, under the shadows of the vatican, that magnificent assemblage of religious edifices, and at the seat of papal authority and power, representatives of the Protestant religious bodies of the world will convene in the interests of Christ's Kingdom. We wonder what the attitude of the Pone will be on that occasion. There are reasons for the belief that it may be such as to increase hone to those who look with eager anticipation forward to a time when the great barriers separating Roman Catholicism and Protestantism will be broken down. Such indications are only slight now. But this is God's world, not man's.

At Sefton Park Church, Liverpool, recently, Dr. Watson preached on the character of Jacob, which he commared to the great problem characters of history, such as Charles I. and Oliver Cromwell, on which people can never agree. He pointed out that the metive power of Jacob's life was the search for God. "The Inferno is not for Jacob, for he would travel the length and breadth of its provinces seeking to find out God. Neither may he enserted the Paradiso with those sadly beswirched garments. Jacob must stay awhile in the Purgatorio for the salvation of his soul." The preacher rehearsed the tale of Jacob's sufferings, his iustification, and his death-bed, "one of the most in-pring things in Christian biography." "One of the greatest triumbles of divine grace," said Ian Maclaren, "is the straightening out of the crookendess in man."

The Rev. J. B. Silcox of Toronto, said recently in a letter to a California friend, portions of which have been published in the Pacific Presbyterian, that some of the greatest preaching ever heard by bim along evangelistic lines was by the Rev. Dr. W. J. Dawson, who was in Toronto a few days not long ago. "It gets hold of your heart, and grips your conscience, and influences your imagination, and drives you to your knees in penitence and prayer." Writing of his own work. Dr. Silcox says that he has a big problem and a heavy burden in the Bond Street Church of Toronto. It is a down-town church, and has a delt of \$20,000. When Dr. Silcox took charge the church was reported to have a membership of 746. Revision of the roll and diligent starch gives them about 250 that can be relied on. The church auditorium will seat about 1,600, and Dr. Silcox has an evening attendance which fills it, but he writes that in the judgment of some of the best men of the city it is thought that the work cannot be continued. Of Congregationalism in general in Canada Dr. Silcox says it is very weak, and he adds: "It will be a good thing when the Prosbytorian Methodist and Congregationalists of Canada unite in one church."