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British and Foreign.

20,000 deaths occur annually in India through the bites of serpents.

Dr. Sandford, assistant Bishop of Durham, has become temporarily blind.

There was a big muster at the anti-gambling meeting at Exeter hall on June 12th.

The area of the Czar's individual possessions of land is greater than the entire extent of France.

Sir Frederick Leighton has received the gold medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The bill to admit New Mexico as a state was passed by the House at Washington without objection.

Rev. S. Printer, of Dublin, has undertaken to write a biography of the late Rev. Dr. Johnston, of Belfast.

Princess Louise opened a sale at Stafford House, for the encouragement of Scottish home industries.

The consumption of tea in the United States amounts yearly to about ninety million pounds in weight.

Dr. Laws and his party of Livingstonia missionaries sailed from London recently for Western Africa.

Dr. Paton has been preaching in Campbelltown to such crowds, that the steps to the pulpit had to be used as seats.

The Rev. George C. Mossman, of Newcastle, has a book in the press—"Three Hundred Miles in Norway."

The Rev. George Gordon Milne, who has been for thirty-three years minister of Cortachy, died there on June 5th.

The fourth annual festival of the Dumfries Choir Union took place on June 9th at Dalbeattie, there being in all 250 voices.

The twenty-eighth anniversary of Dr. Barnardo's Homes for Waifs and Strays was recently celebrated at the Royal Albert Hall.

Mr. Thomas Shaw, the Solicitor-General for Scotland, is a U.P. Was it this that drew him to Dr. MacEwan's Church, in Clapham Road, on a late Sunday?

Mr James Macgillivray, Elder in South Leith Free Church, died suddenly on Sunday while the congregation was assembling.

It is stated that the cigarette is responsible for nearly two-thirds of the rejected applicants at West Point and Annapolis Military Academies.

The Rev. Professor Robertson Smith's will has just been proved, with personal estate in England and Scotland amounting to £9773.

At all the churches and chapels in London, as well as at Roman Catholic places of worship collections were on June 10 made in aid of the hospitals.

Rev. Henry Montgomery, of Albert street church, Belfast, has received a call to Gorbals Free Church, vacant by the resignation of Rev. John Robertson.

The Pullman strikers, during the six weeks of their strike, have lost over \$200,000 of wages which they would have received if they had continued at their work.

The pier at Uig, in the west of Skye, has now been completed. It has been carried out a distance of 1,050 feet, and permits of steamers calling at all states of the tide.

A silver cradle has been presented to the Mayor of Berwick. There have been 703 mayors of Berwick, and no previous one had an increase in his family while in office.

A list of the ministers and churches in the Presbytery of London North is printed on the hymn-sheets used at the open-air service at Regent's Park. The idea is a good one for guidance to wandering sheep.

The Rev. Stephen Beggs, the first Protestant clergyman to preach in Chicago, then old Fort Dearborn, is at present visiting his son in that city. He is 74 years old, but still very vigorous for a man of his great age.

The Prince and Princess of Wales visited East London, and opened a Seaman's Institute and Coffee Bar, provided at a cost of £15,000, a portion of the buildings being a memorial gift from Lord Brassey.

The Mayor of Berwick has received from the executors of the late Mr. Thomas Johnson of Seahouse, Scremerston, £400 for the Berwick soup kitchen, and £100 for the Tweedmouth and Spittal kitchens respectively.

Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher does not believe in woman suffrage. She says: "I am unalterably opposed to woman suffrage. I cannot understand why women will not be satisfied with being women, without aspiring to man's estate."

The executive committee of the Midlothian Liberal Association has selected Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael as Mr. Gladstone's successor, Mr. Gladstone having definitely announced his intention of remaining in complete retirement.

By irrigation 25,000,000 acres are made fruitful in India alone. In Egypt there are about 6,000,000 acres. The United States have just begun the work of improving waste area and have already about 400,000,000 acres of irrigated land.

Professor Blaikie presided at the inauguration of the New College Settlement and Mission Hall, Edinburgh, which has been erected at a cost of £5,000. It is to be worked by the students of New College in conjunction with St. Andrew's Church.

Princess Alix has been joined at Harrogate by her sister, the Princess Louis of Battenburg. She has greatly benefited by the sulphur baths, and will join the Czarewitch at Windsor on the return of the Queen, when arrangements for their marriage will be made.

The Rev. Cosmo Gordon Lang, son of Dr. Marshall Lang, of the Barony Church, Glasgow, has had the living of St. Mary's, Oxford, conferred upon him. The last incumbent, Rev. F. Foulkes, went over to Rome, but came back again—a sadder and a wiser man.

Congregational contributions to the Sustentation Fund, of the Irish Presbyterian Church, which this year amount to £23,223, are £6,724 behind the sum which, twenty-five years ago, was promised by the laity of the church. It is found that 21,036 stipend payers contribute nothing to the fund.

A proposal, which originated among the socialists and extreme democrats in Switzerland, that the Government should be obliged to provide work for able-bodied and willing workmen out of employment, was referred to popular vote on the referendum principle, and was defeated, June 10, by a vote of 300,000 to 85,000.

Princess Christian has been celebrating her forty-eighth birthday, and the Duchess of York her twenty-seventh. The Duke of York spent an hour in the wards of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington. The degree of LL.D. has been conferred on him by Cambridge University. The Duke has half promised to visit Australia next year.

At the Irish Presbyterian General Assembly the chief interest of the debates centred in the action of the Dublin Presbytery in passing resolutions recommending the adoption of a uniform hymn-book, form of administration of

sacraments and the conduct of marriage and funeral services, and a book of family prayers. This Dr. Pethcrew characterized as 'a liturgical innovation.'

The triumph of Miss Katie Winchied in being graduated from the old University of Heidelberg with the title of Doctor of Philosophy, is a triumph for all German women. She is the first woman to win this distinction in Germany, and she won it from the proudest and oldest university of the Fatherland, and against prejudice and traditions which had heretofore been insurmountable.

The Rev. H. Van Staveren, a Jew, headed the poll by a large majority at the recent election of members of the new Licensing Committee at Wellington, New Zealand. This was the first election under a new Act passed during the last session of the Parliament, and in which women exercised the franchise. Mr. Van Staveren is very popular among all classes, Christians as well as Jews, and is noted throughout New Zealand for his many philanthropic actions.

The present Cabinet in France is noticeable for the youth of its members. The Prime Minister, M. Dupuy, and the Minister of the Colonies, M. Delcasse, are the oldest, and they are but forty-two; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Hanotaux is forty; the Minister of Public Instruction is thirty-seven; the Minister of Finance is thirty-three, and the Minister of Public Works, only thirty-one. Mr. Hanotaux is a noted scholar, especially in Assyriology and early French history.

Rev. Dr. Stalker has received a unanimous call to the Free High Church, Edinburgh. This church is in the centre of the city, on the Mound, and its condition has not been very flourishing for some time. Its pastor was the Rev. Dr. W. C. Smith, poet and preacher, and yet renowned as he was he had to lament that he spoke to empty seats more than to full pews, and sometimes had to address a prayer-meeting during the week of even less than a dozen. He has recently resigned, and Dr. Stalker has been asked to take his place.

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The first volume of the census returns for British India for 1891 shows that the number of languages spoken is seventy-eight. At the head of the languages spoken by our 300 millions of subjects in the East stands Hindi, emphatically the Hindu tongue, which comes nearest to the old Aryan speech, and is spoken and written in its various dialects by the largest number, or 107 millions. Next to Hindi, the tongue of North India, comes that of the Eastern Bengalees. Bengali is spoken by 42,000,000 human beings. Then follow Telugu, Punjabi, Tamil, Goojarati, Marathi, etc.

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