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Note and Comment.

Twenty-five villages have been swept away and 6,000 made homeless by floods in India.

Mark Twain says: "As far as my experience goes, wine is a clog to the pen, not an inspiration. I have never seen the time when I could write to my satisfaction after drinking even one glass of wine."

A Hanover, Ont., correspondent writes Toronto World: "Any person who wishes to save coal or wood ought to put two ounces or more of saltpetre into about one quart of strong brine, which should then be sprinkled over the fuel. The salt prevents too rapid burning and the nitre keeps up combustion, if you put in enough, so that you can nearly close your stoves. I have tried it."

The Scotch correspondent of "The Examiner" writes: "I see that the Canadians are anxious that the Rev. John Kelman should take the Toronto chair rendered vacant by the death of Prof. Halliday Douglas. I hope he will do nothing of the sort. He has a mission to the Edinburgh undergraduates, and fills a unique position in that respect at present."

It is not generally known that the Lord Chancellor of Ireland is probably the most highly paid holder of a judicial office in the British Empire. His salary is £8,000 per annum. The Law Times, in mentioning the fact, points out that the salary of the Lord Chancellor of England is £10,000 per annum, but of this sum £4,000 is paid to him in his capacity of Speaker of the House of Lords, and £6,000 as a judge.

That sturdy champion of Nonconformist principles, Dr. Horton, has been addressing a workingmen's congregation on the foundation truths of Dissent. He made an evident impression in pointing out that "when men are touched by the Spirit of God and earnestly moved, they become Dissenters. The Dissenters leave the church, not because it is Established, but to get at God better. They go out into the silence of the mountains, and hear the Voice of God speaking to the soul."

I have just heard (says the London correspondent of the Liverpool "Daily Post") of a fact in connection with Mr. Rhodes will which throws a rather singular light upon the mental methods of the great South African. Strangely enough, in framing his will and in devising a generous gift to Canada, Mr. Rhodes only mentioned the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Dr. Parkin who will select the Canadian students, pointed out to the trustees that this would mean the exclusion of the maritime provinces, the North-West, and British Columbia. This policy would, he frankly said, be simply absurd. Of course, the trustees at once yielded to Dr. Parkin's view. The question is, however, as to how Mr. Rhodes came to confine his benefactors in Ontario and Quebec. The reason is to be found in the fact that Mr. Rhodes knowledge of Canada

was mostly obtained by reading a Life of Sir John A. Macdonald, which dealt with the struggles between these two provinces. Hence it is that when he was framing his will these two provinces presented themselves naturally to his mind. It is a quaint story, but it is quite characteristic of Mr. Rhodes.

Dr. Joseph Parker has returned to his home at Hampstead in much improved health. He hopes not only to be able to discharge his duties at the City Temple, but also to render some services to Free Church Council, of which he is president-elect. The renowned preacher looks forward with much interest to the annual meetings of the Council, which are to be held next spring at Brighton, and talks hopefully of doing a hard winter's work. His recovery has much gratified his large circle of friends and admirers.

It is gratifying to note that the American government has decided against the sale of intoxicating liquor of any description in their Samoan possessions. The United States Vice-Consul at Apia, Mr. Blaklock, had erected a hotel there in which the sale of liquor was carried on, and when his license was revoked he lodged a protest with the Navy Department. After duly considering the matter, the Navy Department has decided against the Vice Consul, and the action of the Naval Governor in revoking the license has been sustained.

The Moderator of the United Free Church of Scotland, Rev. Dr. Robert Howie, of Govan, had the opportunity of meeting the King and Queen last week. Dr. Howie was spending his holidays at Arran when their Majesties called at the island on their cruise round the West Coast. The King and the Moderator spent three or four hours in each other's company on the hillside, and we should not be at all surprised to hear that, after the interview, the King knew far more about Church statistics than he did before it.

General William Booth, founder and head of the Salvation Army, will arrive in this country this month, and for six months will devote his time to revival work in the principal cities of the Union. His son, General Herbert Booth, it is announced, will abandon Army work, and has come to America to enter into business. Only one son, Bramwell, stationed in London, is now connected with the work. Three daughters, however, remain in the army. There are now six members of the Booth family in America, and all six have severed their connection with their father's great enterprise.

The Hampstead divine added a telling anecdote illustrating the contention that prayer in public worship, as in private, must be the spontaneous aspiration of the heart—"Canon Taylor-Smith, in telling Queen Victoria about the last words uttered by the late Prince Henry of Battenberg, suggested a few words of prayer. When he had prayed, he asked did anyone else in the company

would care to offer prayer. In a few moments the broken voice of the aged Queen was heard pleading with God for the widow and fatherless. A form of prayer would have been of no comfort."

Dr. John Watson is to have a lecturing tour in Scotland this winter. He drew immense congregations in Stirling the other week, and made a very deep impression. He has grown immensely in pulpit power since the days when he was colleague-minister in St. Matthew's, Glasgow. He does not shrink from the use of humour and gentle sarcasm in the pulpit, and his preaching is very human and very catholic. He is very much broader in his outlook than some other popular preachers, but in many respects he is one of the most interesting preachers one could wish to hear.

Noah, as a shipbuilder of 4,300 years ago, says the Christian Observer built the ark. Its dimensions were; length, 500 feet; width, 83 feet; and height (or depth), 50 feet. After four thousand years of experience and of study, the builders of the Great Eastern made it 692 x 83 x 57½ feet. And the most recent of our vessels, the Kaiser Wilhelm II., is 706 x 72 x 52½ feet. The skill of the twentieth century in arranging the dimensions, seems to have reached a conclusion not far different from that of Noah.

The "Christian Work and the Evangelist" gives the following declaration of Richard Wagner, the musician, copied from a recently published German work of divinity: "We hear it said: There have been saints and martyrs in the world; why should we hold that Jesus Christ alone among men is divine? But all the saints and all the martyrs became such in the process of time, by divine grace, by a special illumination and experience, an inward conversation which transformed sinners into superhuman and sometimes anti-human beings. Buddha himself was a voluptuous prince, living in his harem, when he was enlightened by the truth; in his renunciation of the pleasures of the world he appears to us heroic and sublime, but not divine. In Jesus, on the contrary, we find from the very beginning a complete holiness, with no admixture of evil passions, an absolute purity of nature which appears to us divine. And, nevertheless, there is in him nothing grotesque, anti-human; his perfect divinity is allied with a perfect humanity, which takes hold of men and inspires them with sympathy and compassion. His figure is unique. All other saints have had need of a Saviour, but he is himself a Saviour."

The reason for having a Thanksgiving dinner at all is to make a common meeting-ground for people supposed to feel particularly cheerful and happy and thankful, and therefore the dinner itself is merely an excuse for coming together. Still, the excuse ought to be a good one. If there's nothing but a turkey, it ought to be a tender turkey and cooked as well as it can be done,