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NOTE AND COMMENT

Mormon missionaries will not be allowed to remain in Switzerland. Three American Mormons, recently arrested in the Canton of Grisono, were sentenced to serve three days in prison and afterwards to be expelled from the country for preaching polygamy.

The away-from-Rome movement in Austria has not stopped. A recent month of last year broke the record in the number of former Catholics who joined the Protestant Churches. In one village no less than 125 heads of families applied for a transfer from the Catholic to the Protestant Church.

Professor George H. Schodde calls attention to the fact that while there has been much attention to the "Away from Rome" movement in Austria, a movement of as great, if not greater proportions, has been going on in Germany, though it has received but little comment. In Austria the movement is but seven years old, while in Germany it has been continually increasing since 1890. As over against the loss of 35,000 persons by Rome in Austria, 76,000 persons have joined the Reformation churches in Germany. Since 1902 the number has averaged between 7,000 and 8,000 each year.

A blow to tipping has been struck by the Duchesa de Looz, through the Paris courts. A furniture-mover sued her for thirty francs, which it was claimed she should have paid his six helpers as tips, in addition to what she had paid for the moving. The magistrate before whom the case was tried decided in favor of the Duchesa, and declared a tip to be a gratuity, not obligatory, but dependent upon the generosity of the donor. Even the Pullman car porter has not gone so far in this country as to attempt to compel the recognition of his right to a tip in a court of law, but as it might come to that sooner or later, it is just as well that the Paris court has settled the principle!

Rev. William A. Fraser died at Holly, Col., on January 18, aged forty years. He was born in Baddeck, Nova Scotia. He graduated from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, in 1898, and concluded his theological course at Halifax in 1902; was ordained by the Presbytery of Sydney in 1902 and preached for four and one-half years at Marion Bridge, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. He then became pastor of the Presbyterian church at Granitville, Vt., and a member of the Presbytery of Boston. His health failing him, he went to Colorado with the hope of restoration, but he passed away. At the time of his death he was on the train near Colorado Springs, on his way to Denver to enter the Oakes Home Sanitarium.

"Discourage litigation" was the advice President Lincoln once gave to lawyers. "Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often the real loser—in fees, expenses and waste of time. As a peacemaker the lawyer has a superior opportunity of becoming a good man. There will always be enough business. Never stir up a litigation. A worse man can scarcely be found than one who does this. Who can be more nearly a fiend than he who habitually overhauls the register of deeds in search of defects in titles, whereon to stir up strife and put money in his pocket? A moral tone ought to be infused into the profession which should drive such men out of it."

The Presbyterian General Assembly of Australia, at Adelaide, expressed itself in favor of a union of the Protestant denominations of the commonwealth, and commended the system of Bible reading which has prevailed in the public schools of New South Wales for thirty years without objection. The number of candidates for the ministry, though still not sufficient, was reported increasing. The Foreign Missions Committee reported work upon various islands of the South Seas. An amendment to the constitution, submitted to the churches by a previous assembly to authorize ordained elders acting as agents of the Home Mission Committee to administer the sacraments in destitute fields, was voted down.

Rev. Thomas Walker Malcolm was born in the city of Dundee, Scotland. He came to Canada with his parents when a boy of 6 years of age, settling finally in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where his parents now reside. After a thorough literary preparation in academy and college, he entered McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill., remaining two years, thence going to Princeton, N.J., graduating with the class of 1901. On the 30th of January, 1902, he was married to Miss Clara Coventry, of Wingham, Ont. Rev. Mr. Malcolm was formerly pastor of the Ridgeway Avenue church, Chicago, Ill., but went to Detroit from a short but happy pastorate in Painted Post, N.Y. He began his work with the St. Andrew's church, Detroit, on February 23.

The Italian Government is being aroused to the work of uncovering Herculeum. Signor Rava, Minister of Public Instruction, has prepared a bill appropriating \$100,000 for the removal of the houses constituting the village of Resina, which stands over the old site of Herculeum, and providing \$3,000 a year for the active work of excavation. International co-operation in the labor is being urged, but is not favored by the present Ministry. To do the work after modern methods, it is said, would call for an expenditure of \$200,000 a year. The treasures which will be unearthed will no doubt more than repay the actual cost of the work, as Herculeum had not the warning of Pompeii evidently had before its overthrow. The archaeological value of the work cannot be overestimated.

A contemporary states: "The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Africa met recently at Bloemfontein, there being present thirty-five ministers and twenty-eight elders. The chief item of business at the Assembly was a proposal for a union of the Presbyterian, Congregational, Wesleyan and Baptist Churches of South Africa. A committee was appointed to confer with representatives from the other denominations. Upon the part of the Presbyterians, desire for a complete union of Protestants was outspoken and unequivocal. As to the native churches, Rev. Jas. Henderson, principal of the famous school at Lovedale, advocated the formation of a distinctively African Presbyterian Church as the only way in which the native churches could be developed in the graces which go to make up a Christian character. The question of Sabbath observance coming before the Assembly, it was learned that better observance of the day had been secured at Johannesburg by a conference between Protestants and Catholics. The public received their joint appeal with a respect they would not have paid to any merely denominational manifesto."

A press despatch, dated Goderich, Feb. 26, says: Last night a public marriage of two of the Francis Green Stock Company took place on the stage of the Opera House during the performance. The ceremony was conducted by the Presbyterian clergyman, Rev. Jas. A. Anderson, amid a forest scene and camp fire, a unique environment. It is not often that a Presbyterian minister lends himself to such a burlesque on what should be a serious and sacred ceremony.

A British paper published the following comment on recent happenings in Portugal, more than ordinarily interesting in view of the recent deplorable assertions in that country: "The highest Courts of Portugal have recently given a decision which sanctions, and, indeed, encourages the sale of Bibles in that country by any responsible agency. It has been the custom to arrest colporteurs offering for sale Bibles printed by the British and Foreign Bible Society, and to subject them to indignity as offenders against the religion of the country and disturbers of the peace. The Court of Appeals in consequence of this policy recently had before it the case of a colporteur apprehended for selling Bibles printed in England. Its emphatic decision makes good reading. The judges declare that there is not a word in the Protestant Bible which can be construed into disrespect of the national religion, and they go so far as to declare it is the purpose of the Portuguese Government to protect Protestants in all their rights under the liberal constitution of the State. The 'Court Gazette' applauds the decision, and in an editorial note requests the Press of that and other countries to make it known declaring that 'by so doing they will render the cause of liberty and education in this land a splendid service.' The victory in the Courts was won in face of the opposition of the whole hierarchy of Portugal."

T. P. O'Connor, M.P., of London, has written in a very sympathetic way in support of the efforts being made by the Salvation Army to combat the tendency to suicide so prevalent in later years. He found that 1,217 persons, 1,125 of whom were men and 92 women had sought advice and assistance from the bureau in their fight against self-slaughter. The causes were tabulated as follows: Lonely and melancholy, 105; financially embarrassed and poverty stricken, 609; criminally involved, 54; drink, drugs or disease, 121; general cause, such as "down in the world," sickness, etc. 236. Mr. O'Connor says this proves the theory he has always held—the theory of Liebig, the greatest of chemists and of many of the ablest sociologists—that poverty is the cause of drink quite as much as drink the cause of poverty, if not much more. Money worries were the trouble with two-thirds of the women. Out of this large total only three were not saved from the temptation. The Canadian Churchman says: "We affect to believe that the more sinful and more 'unjust,' the more unlike the average Churchgoer, the penitent is, we, therefore, give, the greater welcome. We know in practice that is not our ordinary attitude. It is what the Army strives after. The acceptance of the fallen, the weak, the sinful as brethren and sisters is one, the chief one, of the secrets of the immense force which the Salvation Army has become."