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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6, 1905.

Trough the referendum, Norway has declared most explicitly in favor of the dissolution of the union with Sweden. The next step lies with the "predominant partner," who seems to have no choice but to acquiesce in the separation. Much interest has been aroused in England at the possibility of the Norwegian crown being offered to Prince Charles of Denmark, the husband of our English Princess Maud.

It has been well said that "sympathy and free mingling with men are a closer copying of Jesus at Bethany and Cana, of the active apostles, Peter, the husband, and Paul, the welcome guest of Christian households and the founder of churches, than the solitariness of cloister and cave." We need a service of God that gets the broadest knowledge of life, its needs and its resources, its perils and foes, and then takes its stand in the thick of the fray, by example as well as by meditation and prayer, to lighten the world with the gospel, intensely in the world, but not of it."

At the present time the following from the Herald and Presbyter is particularly timely, and the suggestions are quite as applicable to Canada as to the United States: Hundreds of young men are hesitating in regard to their future work in life. We would ask them to consider, very seriously, whether they are not called into the ministry. There is no work like this in all the world, for the opportunities afforded for doing good and for the abounding satisfaction coming to those who do it. If we had the ordering of it, we would select hundreds of Christian young men who are going into various forms of business life, and would start them to make special preparation for the ministry this fall. But we have no such ordering, and we might make many mistakes. But the Lord has the right to order our lives, and we fear greatly that young men who are being called by him into the ministry are disregarding his call and disobeying the heavenly vision, and that they will reap regret in coming days for not listening and being willing to be led.

TRIUMPHANT JAPAN

President Roosevelt doubtless deserves much credit for his share in bringing about peace between Japan and Russia. His influence and that of the United States will naturally henceforth have great weight with both Japan and Russia. That influence will be in its main current in the direction of Christian civilization. If it takes one's breath away to review the astounding character of Japan's great victory by land and sea, not less astonishing has been Japan's magnanimity and moderation in the final terms of peace to which she gave assent. If the "Yellow Peril" never becomes yellower than this, there need be little cause for alarm! We see it suggested that Great Britain's influence though unseen, may have had to do with the statesmanlike generosity of Russia's dauntless opponent, Japan, and Britain have been united by treaty, and this treaty has now been renewed on a basis so comprehensive that it is believed it will prove a steady and pacifying factor in all international affairs.

The result of the war should promote the interests of Christianity, which include civilization and constitutional liberty. Japan will be more accessible than ever to those English-speaking ideas with which we believe the highest interests of mankind are identified. As for Russia, hard has been her discipline, but it will be her national salvation. But for the war, and but for the humbling administered by Japan, the Russian autocracy would never have granted the new constitution and an annual parliament. Not much of a constitution, and not much of a Parliament, from our point of view, you say; but it is a start; it will grow. Russia is a country of boundless resources; its peasant people have many lovable characteristics. Given time, education, a gradual evolution of self-government, and Russia will yet take a high place among the nations.

Japan truly has awakened from sleep. China bestirs also. The arts of peace will supplant those of war.

The over-ruling hand of Providence in all these things seems to stand out like a rainbow from a dark sky.

Amid the glories of our progress, says a writer in the Brooklyn Eagle, we have been losing sight of the wonderful strides the Dominion of Canada is making toward commercial independence of the United States. "In the first place, she is driving another transcontinental railway toward the Pacific coast. She is building cotton mills to spin the raw material that she expects to bring from Egypt and South Africa cheaper than she can get it from our Southern States. The seven provinces of the Dominion are about to be increased to nine. The Northwest Territory, familiar from our boyhood school days, will disappear from the map. As every reader of this column knows, the seven provinces of the Dominion, following the map westward, in our mind's eye, the Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, and, far out on the Pacific coast, British Columbia. Between Manitoba and the big Pacific province has been an ill-defined area. Its limitations were somewhat like our original Louisiana province. Everybody knew that it began on parallel 49, north, but nobody knows where it ended in the far north. This vast prairie region has been divided into the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Manitoba is one of the wheat-raising regions of the world, and this new acreage, opened up by the Canadian Pacific Railroad and the proposed extension of the Grand Trunk, will become equally prosperous."

Satan cannot steal a march on those who keep the stronghold securely garrisoned.

The famine in Spain reached the point of actual starvation, and despair led to rioting among peasants and workmen, who were unable to obtain the necessities of life, and in consequence began a campaign of pillaging and depredation.

Central Presbyterian: Opportunity! Not to-morrow, but to-day. Now or never. The accepted time may come only once. It will not do to look, like Felix, for a more convenient season, which we may never see.

The Springfield Republican, which is candidly tolerant of all religious faiths, remarks that "missionaries of the Mormon Church are all impostors, and have no proper harborage among us. They do not proclaim the essential facts about their political church."

The following is the resolution of the Bible Christian Conference, held at Exeter, touching the question of Methodist union in England: "That we are deeply impressed with the indications the past year has afforded that the negotiations now proceeding have received the signal blessing and guidance of the Great Head of the Church. The interpretation of the mind of the Master must be our chief concern, and govern all our decisions, and we are bound to recognise the working of the unifying Spirit of God in the enthusiastic awakening in the several Conferences, in the fact that a constitution has been framed which has received general acceptance, and in the remarkable way in which difficulties have been overcome. We are resolved to continue the negotiations in the same magnanimous spirit manifested by the other two denominations, and in the full assurance that the hoped-for consummation will prove to be the glory of God." The resolution carried unanimously, the vote being followed by the singing of the doxology and prayer, during which nearly every member of the Conference was in tears, and a wonderful overflow of joy and gratitude was manifested. The Christian Guardian says: Methodist union of the three bodies now negotiating is fully assured, and the larger union cannot, we think, be very far away.

The Scottish Anti-Tobacco Society has collected some very valuable information relative to the practice of foreign countries and British Colonies in the matter of the sale and the use of tobacco by persons of immature age. In France, Italy, Austria, Spain, and Portugal, where the sale of tobacco is a State monopoly, there has been a general attempt to prevent juvenile smoking. In some quarters such effort has been successfully advanced. In Ontario and New Brunswick, for instance, a boy is not permitted to smoke till he is 18, while in ten states of the Union smoking is not allowed till the boy is of full age. Japan has gone about the business in a characteristically thorough spirit. There boys under 20, if caught indulging the weed, are liable to be deprived of "the smoking instruments, as well as the tobacco," and parents permitting the practice are fined two shillings, while tobacco dealers selling tobacco or smoking instruments to youths under twenty are fined £1. The information in general shows that in most civilized countries the evils associated with juvenile smoking are recognised, and that in most efforts are being made to suppress them.

Soul-winning, not brain-nurturing, is the great end and aim of the Church.