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NOTE AND COMMENT

The will of Rev. Dr. John Watson ("Tan Maclaren"), who died at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, May 6th. last, leaves an estate valued at \$288,500 to his widow and family, and invests the control of all published and unpublished works in trustees for the benefit of the estate.

The postal savings' banks of Great Britain have 9,673,717 depositors, whose deposited savings amount to \$721,819,298. The depositors in Canada's postal savings' banks number 169,334, with deposits of \$47,092,514. France has 4,345,448 depositors, with deposits of \$229,158,291.

It is reported from Liverpool that negotiations had been opened between the Cunard and Grand Trunk lines for a joint handling of the Canadian passenger and freight traffic, the plan including a Cunard service from the Pacific Coast to Japan, China and Australia.

Advices from Tokio indicate that the Japanese government will take steps to curb emigration to the United States and Canada; even Count Okuma admitted the advantage of restrictions and expressed the hearty good will of the Japanese people toward Canada and the United States.

The first Chinese forestry school is soon to be opened in Mukden. The floods in China, periodically causing great loss of life and extensive famines, are due to the destruction of the forests. The destruction of the forests in Southern Russia has converted large tracts of that country into a howling wilderness.

A London physician has run the risk of losing all his women patients by coming out with a tremendous attack on the bridge whist habit. He says it makes hot rooms, late hours, excited nerves, ends in colds, fevers, pneumonia, and all sorts of things. Probably this doctor is right, but the devotees of "bridge" won't heed him.

Remarkable changes have taken place in Nyasaland, Africa, in ten years—changes which illustrate the power of Christ and the Church. The health of the people is better. The natives have changed in the matter of dress. There is a large reading and writing public. There are some 33,000 scholars in the mission schools. Evil customs have passed away.

The Rev. Dr. Straton, Anglican bishop of Sodor and Man, has been transferred to the more important see of New Castle. The significance of the change is that he is distinctly and aggressively Protestant, as opposed to the Romish tendencies in the English Church. He is the most pronounced evangelical among all the English bishops, and speaks earnestly for the maintenance of a simple gospel.

"Some are born great; some achieve greatness; and some have greatness thrust upon them." And the Philadelphia Westminster emphasizes the triplet saying, by adding: "It is the great middle class, the achievers, that has uplifted this world. General William Booth is the greatest single achiever in the religious world produced by the nineteenth century. The uniform of the Salvation Army is the badge of one of the greatest illustrations of applied Christianity the world has ever seen."

Forty million women in India are imprisoned in Zenanas, where the outside world is unknown and unseen. The physician and sometimes the missionary are admitted and give wonderful glimpses of a larger world beyond, but their souls are dark. Fifty per cent. of the women of India die prematurely or are invalided for life, and there are 27,000,000 widows—a widow means disgrace and deprivation of the pleasures of life.

The Public Ledger of Philadelphia says no other sovereign in Europe has equaled the success of William II, the German Emperor, in making a nation richer than he found it. In present wealth and on the basis of future wealth Germany is a different nation from that of Bismarck. The Kaiser has always declared himself in favor of peace. He maintains Germany as a formidable military power. "The one certainty stands in his favor—he has had no war, though there have been opportunities to gain glory and conquest a war-crazed monarch would have seized." If he were to die to-morrow, it is hard to see how historians "could avoid telling that he was a consummate master of the royal art of using war as a weapon for obtaining results without bloodshed and of concurrently using peace for the construction of national wealth."

Is the Roman Catholic church to be less Roman and more Catholic in the future? Hitherto its college of Cardinals, whose chief function is to select a pope and thus predetermine his policy, has been overwhelmingly Italian in its composition. Recently a number of English speaking prelates voiced a request for larger representation in this pope making body. They pointed out that the southern nations of Europe are falling behind Anglo-Saxon countries in power and influence. They are also falling to stand by the papacy as they formerly stood. Relatively the Catholics of England and the United States are increasingly necessary to the papacy. Unless some such modification as that asked for takes place, this attempt of one little province to rule the world will grow more ridiculous than it is now. On the other hand, those who occupy the platform now are afraid to make a move lest they lose their seats in the front row. Has the Italian had his day?

Facts recently published show that Mormonism in Mexico is flourishing and growing even more rapidly than in its palmest days in Utah. The first colony was planted there more than twenty years ago, in a district where there were neither towns nor railroads. In the heart of the wilderness, either in the mountain valleys or on the mountains themselves, the Mormon settlers established themselves, and their increase has been both rapid and steady. Polygamy is practiced without hindrance from the Mexican authorities, and it is said to be no unusual thing for a Mormon with several wives to have a family of from twenty to thirty children. "A prominent Mexican lawyer" is quoted as saying that it is very unlikely that the government will soon interfere with polygamy among them. Settlers are needed too badly, he says. "In fact, as a colonizing element the Mormons, with their large families, are eminently satisfactory, and we do not want to notice the fact that in their houses there are two or three women to one man. Some day, perhaps, public opinion will force attention to it, but not yet awhile."

The time will come when the civilized man will feel that the rights of every living creature on earth are as sacred as his own. Anything short of this cannot be perfect civilization.—

Presbyterian Witness: It is a striking and significant fact that union movements are reported from Korea, China, Japan, India, Africa and Australia, as well as from the United States and Canada. Whither are we tending? The only test we have ventured to apply to this movement is: Do they point to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as the centre of union? Where such is the case we can look upon these movements most hopefully, and without fear. We would not speak lightly of doctrines, or of systems, or of forms of worship, or of government. By no means. At the basis of Christianity is Christ. The true Foundation is Christ. The King and Head is Christ.

The Sunday School Times of Nov. 16 publishes some 31 messages from prominent clergymen and others in reply to the suggestive thought: "What I An Thankful For." The following is the message from George Hodges, D.D., D.C.L., Dean of the Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Mass.:

"I have a hundred reasons for private gratitude; indeed, they pass all computation. But as a clergyman of the Episcopal Church, the leading note in my thanksgiving is touched by the action of the general convention in opening our pulpits to our christian brethren. Our pulpits have never been so tight shut as some have thought. But they had inconvenient doors which have created a good deal in the opening. Even now, the doors are not off, but they are open. That means a new courtesy and a new fraternity. And I am thankful for it." The barriers between Christian Evangelical denominations are being "burned away."

The recent financial panic in the United States, which had its starting point in Wall street, and which made itself felt to some extent in Canada, has elicited the following comment and warning from the Wall Street Journal: "What America needs more than railway extension and western irrigation, and a low tariff, and a bigger wheat crop, and a merchant marine, and a new navy, is a revival of piety, the kind mother and father used to have—piety that counted it good business to stop for daily family prayers before breakfast, right in the middle of the harvest; that quit work a half hour earlier Thursday night, so as to get the chores done and go to prayer meeting; that borrowed money to pay the preacher's salary and prayed fervently in secret for the salvation of the rich man who looked with scorn on such behavior. That's what we need now to clean this country of the filth of graft, and of greed, petty and big; of worship of fine houses and big lands and high office and grand social functions. Great wealth never made a nation substantial nor honorable. There is nothing on earth that looks good that is so dangerous for a man or a nation to handle as quick, easy, big money. If you do resist its deadly influence the chances are that it will get your son. It takes greater and finer heroism to dare to be poor in America than to charge an earthquake in Manchuria." What is wanted in Canada, as well as in the United States, is a regime of old-fashioned righteousness among the people. Then rulers and men in high places will take heed to their ways.