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Note and Comment.

Amongst the colored supplements in the February number of "The Studio" will be a facsimile reproduction of Mr Whistler's water colour drawing "The Sea Shore."

The Paris Observatory has received from M. Melendez, a Spanish photographer, a remarkable photograph of the moon. Melendez invented a process which enabled him to obtain a picture showing mountains and volcanoes upon the surface of the orb, and indicating forests of huge trees, now petrified.

An airship, on which an English inventor, Thomas Buchanan, had been working for twenty years, and which he hoped was to rival M. Santos-Dumont's, was entirely destroyed, last week, by the burning of the shed under which it was housed. Tramps charged with starting the blaze have been arrested.

M. Santos-Dumont, the Brazilian inventor whose air-ship has been making successful trial trips at Paris, made two wonderful exhibitions of his machine at Monte Carlo last week. He sailed in three different directions, above the harbor and the open sea, at a height of 327 feet performing evolutions with ease and rapidity.

It is refreshing to read that when the question was brought up in the Presbytery of New York, as to Sunday opening of saloons, a paper, strongly protesting, was unanimously adopted, every man, minister and elder, being on his feet against this double desecration of the day by devoting it to a business pursuit and a bad business at that.

The Archduchess Elizabeth of Austria regards a Lieutenant as preferable to a kingdom, and has accordingly renounced all claim to the throne of Austro-Hungary to marry Lieutenant Prince Otto Windisch-Graetz, who is not of royal blood. The Archduchess was heir to the throne of Austria, and at one time it was announced that she was to marry Alfonso, King of Spain.

Times are gradually getting harder for the British officers in South Africa. They have already been deprived of their pianos and cooking ranges, and now a correspondent says that the buck waggons that are bedrooms and saloons on wheels are to be put under ban, and so are the Cape carts that carried the officers' excellent midday lunches, with napery, crystalware, wines, tables and chairs.

Chinese officials have found treasure to the value of over 100,000,000 taels in gold and silver, which was buried in the women's quarters of the Palace before the Court fled from Peking. As one of our exchanges says: "One cannot help admiring the fidelity of the Chinese subjects, many of whom must have known the secret of the treasure and that they could gain a fortune by revealing it, but all of whom seem to have kept it faithfully."

Santos Dumont has more than duplicated his trip around Eiffel Tower. After preparations lasting two months, he has made two trips across the Bay of Hercules at Monte Carlo. The first trip was made without a hitch, but the second did more to reveal the possibilities of air navigation. He showed his ability to rise, descend, turn, stop, or move ahead. This trip lasted about half an hour. It was witnessed by distinguished spectators, and is pronounced a magnificent success. The navigator is thoroughly satisfied with his progress, and is now making arrangements for a trip to Corsica.

One of the most encouraging indications of the good will toward Christianity in China is found in the fact that the government voluntarily has devoted five hundred thousand taels to establish a university at Tai-yuen, and has requested the Rev. Timothy Richards, a Christian minister, to assume the headship of the institution and the management of the fund. Tai-yuen is in the province of Shansi, where missionaries and native converts were murdered by the Boxers in the recent outbreak. This gift the Congregationalist says, has been "prompted by the fact that the missionary societies refused to demand money compensation for missionaries killed."

"A Society for the Suppression of Alcoholism met recently in Breslau, to consider the drink question in Germany. The empire, it appears, spends \$750,000,000 a year on drink, as against \$3,000,000,000 for food. A Munich employer of many skilled workmen, in speaking last summer of the difficulties of competing with foreign and even North German concerns, laid stress upon the cheapness of Munich beer as one of his greatest handicaps. 'If we were on equal terms in every other respect,' he said, 'the fact that my men's brains and bodies are sodden with beer, day and night, would put me behind in the race.' So serious has the drawback of beer-drinking workmen in Germany become, and so thoroughly is it recognized, that a movement has been started to exclude the drink from the factory premises."

The questions, how far can light penetrate a layer of water, and what is the cause of the very various colors of the ocean, have been studied on several scientific voyages during the last ten years. Transparency varies with the color of the water (greatest for blue water), the sun's altitude (greatest for large altitudes), the season of the year (greatest in winter), with the salinity of the water, with the temperature (greatest for low temperatures), with the depth of the water (greatest for deep water), with the cloudiness of the sky (greatest for clear skies), with the disturbance by waves (greatest for calm seas), and so forth. The greatest transparency observed in the Aegean Sea was fifty-one yards. Photographic plates were also exposed at various depths to see how the chemical rays of sunlight penetrated. Fifty-five experiments at depths varying from 350 to 1,825 feet were made, and beyond the latter depth no action at all was observed.

A sign of the times is the appointment by the Pope of a commission to fix the limits of Biblical criticism within the Roman Catholic church. The London Christian Leader says the names of the persons forming the commission "are a guarantee of the broad spirit of enquiry in which the Holy See is approaching the investigation." That paper further says: "The president—Cardinal M. Parochi—has strong sympathies with advanced studies in Scriptural exegesis." "The world do move"—and the Papacy too.

The Gravest Problem that France has to deal with is how to check the decrease in her population. On January 29, the Premier, M. Waldeck Rousseau, presided at the opening session of the Parliamentary Commission appointed to investigate this matter. In his address, the Premier said the question is one of the most vast and complicated that could be conceived. The statistics of the past fifty years show that there have been too few births and too many deaths in France. The Commission will have to study how to combat the great infant mortality, and also how to prevent the diminution and increase the number of births, which, the Premier said, is a most difficult and obscure side of the problem. The Government intends to embody the fruits of the Commission's labors in future legislation.

Under the heading of "Ministers and Business," the Congregationalist makes the following remarks: "We do not like to see the prefix of 'Rev.' in the list of directors of commercial enterprises. Persons consecrated to the gospel ministry were not set apart by their brethren with this end in view. The man who thus uses this title is not thereby more worthy to be trusted. Sensible persons are no more likely to buy shares of stock in a corporation because one or more of its promoters is advertised as a clergyman, and those who might be tempted to suppose that 'gain is godliness' are not good customers, anyway. The advertisement that 'a prominent divine' advises the purchase of stock or goods should warn rather than win the public. Business men of good reputation do not usually believe that 'Rev.' can wisely be used as having a commercial and at the same time a spiritual value." Food for thought in this.

Says the Michigan Presbyterian: "If we fondly flatter ourselves that the trouble is all over in China we shall awake one day to learn that we have been living in a fool's paradise. The Chinese are only getting ready for the most tremendous revenge that any nation ever wrought upon the enemies who humiliated a defeated nation. The only possible hope for peace between China and the rest of the world is the christianization of this great country." It is worthy of note that similar hints have been thrown out by correspondents who were in a position to be good judges of Chinese character. Whether such a forecast be realized or not, it is undeniably true that the christianization of the celestial empire will be the best safeguard for China and for the world. The evangelical missionary nations of the world know the character and extent of the work that is ahead of them.