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Note and Comment.

Russian soldiers from Finland and Poland to the number of 3,000 are reported to have refused to go to the war, and other Russian soldiers have refused to fire on them.

In many parts of Australia the cultivation of cotton can be made a very large and profitable industry, and a movement in this direction has begun.

And now it is reported that within a month New York will have another visitation by Dr. Dowie and the cohorts of Zion City. Agents of Elijah III. have engaged Carnegie Hall for June 26th.

The Chambers of Commerce of London and Paris have revived the scheme of tunnelling the Channel between England and France—one of the results of the Anglo-French agreement.

Halifax harbor is ready for war. Royal Engineers have just completed the work of thoroughly mining all the ship channels. Two hundred mines, each having 500 lb of guncotton, have been laid, and the city today, with its warships and its forts, is practically impregnable.

A copy of the "Breeches Bible" of 1599 has been presented to the National Bible Society of Scotland. Some interesting details of the society's work in Spain were given at the last meeting. In a northern village where coin was scarce the people gave eggs in exchange for the Gospel, and throughout the country the sales have largely increased.

The Swiss and Italian ends of the great Alpine tunnel, under the Simplon Pass, have just met, after nearly six years of labor. The tunnel is twelve and a half miles long, over three miles longer than any of the three other Alpine tunnels, and will cost, when complete, \$15,600,000. Its completion will give direct communication between Milan and Paris and London and points all the way to Brindisi.

The British, French and Russian Ambassadors at Constantinople have again told the Sultan that Armenian massacres must stop. The Sultan, with his usual good grace, will no doubt give formal acquiescence to this proposal. During the temporary lull he will have good opportunity to sharpen up his trusty sword afresh.

Formosa is an island colony of Japan, situated in the China Sea, about ninety miles from the southern coast of China. The island was ceded to Japan by China as a result of the war of 1894. It has an area of about 15,000 square miles, and the population is estimated at 3,000,000. It is the center at least of two successful missions that of our own church, in charge of Rev. Thurlow Fraser, B.D., and that of the English P.e.b.yterian church.

Colonel Younghusband, the political agent with the British Thibet Mission, recently sent a letter to the Thibet representatives asking a conference on the questions at issue, and his letter was returned unopened. This is regarded as a deliberate act of defiance, equivalent to a declaration of war, and the subsequent acts of the Thibetans seem to confirm it.

The British soldier in India is now so well paid that a thrifty man can save quite a round sum in a few years, especially if he is a "single man in barracks." Attention is officially directed to the fact that savings may be invested through the Post Office in Government securities carrying a higher rate of interest than that paid by the Savings Bank. The British soldier as an investor is the latest product of the age.—Pioneer, Allahabad.

Referring to the visit of the Rev. R. J. Campbell to the Pope, the Methodist Times says—"The Pope is one of the sights of Rome, and a man may go to see him as he would go to see the Dalai Llama if he were in Lhasa and had the entree. We imagine that the objection must be a hazy idea that by calling on a pious old gentleman, whom everyone personally respects, you admit the claims to spiritual and temporal sovereignty which he puts forward."

The Academy of Medicine has received an important and interesting report from Dr. Foucault on the result of forty years' observation of cancer cases. Dampness seemed to the doctor to be the chief predisposing cause of the disease. Heredity did not exert a strong influence on the spread of the disease, children of cancerous parents who were not subject to the same environment as the parents failing to develop any cancerous affection. He, therefore, argued that cancer is not a hereditary malady.

A traveller who has been in Korea, over which the Russians and Japs are at war, long enough to grow familiar with its customs, says one of the most unique and picturesque of them is the family hat, that descends from father to eldest son. This hat, made from the hair of the family ancestors, is a priceless possession, and so carefully handled that it never wears out.

At long last the English Methodist have revised their Hymnal, and produced what is practically a quite new manual, remarks the Belfast Witness. It contains nearly one thousand pieces, surely too many, since there are not nearly that number of hymns suited to church worship. However, the committee have removed some very objectionable stanzas that disfigured the old book, stanzas which John Wesley considered almost inspired. The British Weekly, says every hymn should have the author's name attached. We altogether disagree. In the text which the congregation sing, no man's name should appear, it is distracting to the worshipper; the author's name must be relegated to the index, as in the Hymnary of the Presbyterian churches. The musical settings and arrangements have been carried out by a very competent man, the organist of Westminster Abbey.

The General Assembly.

In moving the adoption of the report on Young People's Societies Rev. J. G. Potter, referring to the success of the Christian Endeavorer, pointed to the fact that a great number of the ministers of the church come from their ranks. He said that a great many young men object to the pledge which the Christian Endeavor Society has, so other guilds have been founded, and now the large majority of the young men in the church belong to one or other of them. He said that although the figures of the report seem to mark a decrease in the work done, that the work is more extended and more deeply effective than ever before.

Recommendations were adopted from the Committee on Sabbath Observance deprecating social functions, funerals and parades on the Lord's Day.

Queen's University.

Prof. Murray, Dalhousie University, reported to the committee regarding Queen's University as follows:

That the connection between the Church and Queen's University be maintained.

That in view of the helpful influence exercised by the graduates of the University the committee would approve of arrangements being made whereby they, the graduates, may be given through the council, a larger representation on the board of trustees.

That the Assembly recognizing the extent and character of the work done by the university, approves of the deliverance of the commission that the university requires an additional revenue of \$20,000 exclusive of the contributions at present made in favor of the theological department, and heartily commends it to the liberality of the members of the Church, and to the cordial sympathy and support of the presbyteries and congregations of the central synods.

That the Assembly recommends the trustees to initiate at an early date a movement to procure this additional revenue.

That the Assembly appoints a committee to co-operate with the trustees for the purpose.

Received Into the Church.

One member from the Church of Scotland one from the Baptist church, two from the Congregational church, and eight from the Presbyterian church in the United States, were received into the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The application of one from the church in France was refused and another one was declined in the meantime. The names thus received follow:—A. F. Thompson, John H. Davis, C. R. Ashdowne H. G. Gunn, Wm. Cameron, G. O. Ralston, T. G. MacLeod, John Fernie, F. J. Coffin, Ph. B.

Kingston was chosen as the place for holding the General Assembly of 1905. Both the Presbytery of Kingston and the people of Kingston joined in the invitation. The invitation was accepted. The Grant Hall which is in course of erection in the Queen's campus, will be the place in which the next assembly will convene on the first Wednesday of next June.

The usual loyal addresses were passed, a number of items of unfinished business were despatched and the Assembly closed at 2 o'clock, to meet on the first Wednesday of June next in Grant Hall, Kingston.