

the infant Church, the divine promise was fulfilled and the insignificant little band was transformed into a great host. That the times have changed, that the Church has grown into a mighty army does not make her any less dependent upon the great source of power, nor is God any the less willing to bless the great army than the little company of earnest spirits who tarried in Jerusalem until the promised blessing came.

And what the Church will be, when in trunk and branch and twig she feels the quickening thrill of the fuller and richer life, brings a throb of joy to the heart. She is an organization of limitless possibilities. She has prestige and wealth and scholarship and numbers and influence.

Let this prevailing note of desire and expectancy and assurance deepen. Let ministers of all communions make it the central theme of their preaching. Let good men and true women everywhere make it the burden of their prayers, and let every man, woman and child, who has been following the Lord, but afar off, come into closer consecrated touch, and in that Sacred Presence feel the thrill of a richer, fuller life, and we shall see the Church of God put on her strength and her beautiful garments.

PROTESTANT GAINS IN EUROPE.

At the meeting of the German Evangelical Alliance in Halberstadt, Professor Tell read a paper on "The Loss and Gain of Protestantism at the Turning Point of the Century." The Interior's summary of it says he saw in all scientific, literary, commercial and social progress a gain for Protestantism. Every recognition of rights of conscience, separation of civil rights from priestly control, progress of culture, deepening of the feeling of the unity of Christian nations, common Christian undertakings, the growing love for what is common to all believers—all this is a gain for Protestantism.

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NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

HOME FOR INEBRIATES.

Glasgow has bought a place which it proposes to make a home for habitual drunkards. It is hoped to effect cures by making the inmates do farm work. The rum shops are kept open by public authority, that the supply of victims for the home may not fall off!

DESIRE STATEHOOD.

Oklahoma and Indian Territory was to be made into a state. They recently had a joint convention which passed resolutions favouring union and desiring admission to statehood. They have a combined population of nearly 800,000.

JAIL DELIVERY.

One of the St. John celebrations of the birth of the new century was a general jail delivery. There were about twenty five inmates. By order of the Police Magistrate, who gave them some advice, they all went free. Unhappily, some of them were back before the century was twenty-four hours old.

THE POLICE RECORD.

The statistical report of the St. John Police Court for the year 1900 is out. It shows 743 cases of drunkenness dealt with by the Court, 139 fewer cases than in 1899. Of course, this will be commented on far and wide as showing one fine effect of a license system - the decrease of drunkenness. Nothing will be said of the number of times the Police Magistrate has cautioned the police against arresting drunken men, telling them they have no right to do so unless the drunken men are creating serious disturbance.

VOTING MACHINES.

Occasional reference is made to "the machine" as used in elections—the thing mentioned being a device for improper purposes. This note is not about that kind of a machine, but about one for the more accurate recording of the wishes of the electorate. It has been used in a number of places in the United States, and has, it is claimed, given satisfaction. It works somewhat on the principle of the cash-register now in so general use in stores.

Many advantages are claimed for the system, among them these: It secures greater expedition in registering and counting votes. It secures perfect accuracy in counting. It makes it impossible to identify any man's vote, and removes all chances for ballot stuffing.

GETTING PAID.

A reduction of taxes on beer is proposed in the United States. The Brewers are understood to be getting their reward for the part they took in support of the administration in the Presidential election.

EX-PRESIDENTS AGREE.

Ex-Presidents Harrison and Cleveland have recently expressed themselves in regard to the expansion policy of the McKinley administration. Both are opposed to it. The people, however, have endorsed it, which President McKinley probably regards as more important than even the opinion of his only living predecessors.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION.

The birth of the twentieth century witnessed the birth of the Commonwealth of Australia—the federation of the Australian colonies. The Governor General, Lord Hopetoun, was sworn in, as were the members of the

first Federal Government. A message from the Queen and one from the Imperial Government were read. The event was celebrated with every sign of public rejoicing.

THE DELPIT CASE.

Some time ago we referred to this case. It has entered another stage, and is attracting increased interest. For the sake of those who may have overlooked or forgotten the previous reference to it, we restate the case, briefly: A marriage took place in the Montreal between Mr. Delpit and Miss Cote. They were married by a Protestant minister. They lived together several years, and children were born to them. Domestic infelicity occurred, and Mr. Delpit sought to have it declared that no marriage had ever taken place because, as he asserted, both parties were Roman Catholics and could not be legally married by a Protestant minister. The wife declares that she was and is a Protestant, and that the marriage by a Protestant minister was, therefore, legal—that she is legally Delpit's wife and their children are legitimate. The question, in a way peculiar to Quebec, was referred by the Civil Court to the Roman Catholic ecclesiastics, and they decided that the woman was and is a Roman Catholic because her father had not formally announced his withdrawal, that the Protestant ceremony was illegal and the marriage no marriage at all.

PETER'S PENCE.

The "Holy Year" in the Roman Catholic Church, which ended Dec 31st, has been extended six months by the Pope. The purpose of the extension is, it is said, to further swell the Peter's Pence, which was made a speciality of during 1900, and without much success. Nearly three and half millions of dollars were received which would seem to be enough. But more is wanted, hence the enlargement of the holy year.

FRENCH WEAKNESS.

Writing of the French feeling against Great Britain, the Cincinnati Christian Standard says the essential weakness of the French character is seen in the senseless demonstrations against Britain on every possible occasion. The visit of Kruger was seized upon to express traditional hatred for England while a prominent member of the legislature made himself the hero of the moment by a speech in the Assembly advocating preparation for the invasion of England. On the whole, the British public has taken these childish demonstrations at their true value and remained quiet. On the matter of the invasion of England Von Moltke's words are in point. In a discussion of the subject, the general remarked that he could think of half a dozen ways to get an army of invasion into England, but not a single one for getting it out. The South African war has shown how difficult it is to overcome natural difficulties in the enemy's country, and propose with no knowledge of the resources of volunteer forces defending their own homes. No European nation is likely to commit the folly of attempting the invasion of Great Britain.

HIS WELCOME.

Lord Roberts was given a great greeting on his arrival in England on Wednesday. He was met by the Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the royal family. He had a special audience with the Queen, who conferred an Earldom on him, and he was, also, made a Knight of the Garter. He has already taken up the duties of Commander in Chief of the British Army.

WHY NOT?

It does not appear that the Canadian government has made any offer of service in South Africa. Three weeks ago the Montreal Witness suggested that it was about time the government was moving in the matter. That there are many men willing and even eager to go there is no doubt.

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH McLeod, D.D., EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9TH, 1901.

The large department stores in New York say the Bible is the best selling book they have—that they sell more copies of it every year than of any book in stock. One store said they sold thirty thousand Bibles a year.

There has, first and last, been considerable talk about the union of the Unitarians and the Universalists in the United States. The movement makes but slow progress; indeed it does not seem that the union can be accomplished very soon, if at all.

Rev. W.W. Weeks formerly, of Moncton, now of Toronto, was recently called to the pastorate of the Euclid Avenue Baptist church, Cleveland, Ohio. John D. Rockefeller, the Standard Oil man, is a leading member of the church. Mr. Weeks has declined the call. He evidently believes he is now where he ought to be, and a richer church is no inducement to him.

Archbishop Ireland, who has been considered a foremost friend and advocate of temperance in the Roman Catholic Church, has joined hands with the distillers, brewers and rum men generally in favour of rum-selling in the United States army. It seems hard for Roman Catholic bishops and priests to take strong ground against the rum traffic, so many of their people are engaged in it.

Urging family piety, righteousness in our homes, as the great need, Mr. Moody told of a young minister who went to him with the statement, that he couldn't get along with his wife, and asking the great evangelist's advice as to what he should do. Moody promptly and bluntly told him that if he could not get along with his wife he had better get out of the ministry at once, for, he said, no man has a right to be in the pulpit unless he can get along with his family.

statistics of 1804 and 1900) a growth from about 80 churches and preachers to 1517 churches and 1466 preachers; and from about 3000 communicants to 85,242. Were the denomination to show the same proportion of growth hereafter, at the end of the second century there would be nearly thirty thousand churches and over two million communicants! Ye who smile may consider that, aside from all statistics, the distinctive principles that Free Baptists have stood for have had a tremendous expansion during the century just closing, and during the century to come may reach universality throughout Christendom. And what are these principles? Free Will, Free Grace, and Free Communion!

While the statistics of our denomination alone now show about eighty-five thousand communicants, it is likely that the total number of communicants in our own and similar bodies would run into the hundreds of thousands.

Perhaps the most striking result of the recent great Catholic Congress at Bourges is the confessions of failure of Continental Catholicism which it elicited from some of the most distinguished priests and bishops. Archbishop Ireland, of Minnesota, who was present, expressed himself thus:

I recall the days of my youth in France when the faith was living, when the churches were filled morning and evening, and when the processions of the Holy Sacrament were followed in triumph by the population of the towns and of the country. To-day I traverse France from Calais to Marseilles, as I do Italy, which in all respects it resembles, as also I do other European countries, and what do I see? Churches almost empty, churches where there is only a handful of people kneeling before the Holy Sacrament. I read the newspapers, and they teach me that we are in a life and death struggle, and that if things continue in this train we are, humanly speaking, vanquished.

Others spoke in a similar strain. For instance, speaking of Catholicism in France, one bishop said:

Men are drawing away from Christianity. Amongst the masses it is indifference. With great numbers of them the whole life contains room for not more than three or four religious observances. In the middle and upper classes the men also, with some miserable exceptions, are escaping us. In the intellectual circles we find no nearer approach to religion than a vague idealism. One is tempted to repeat with some slight modification the famous saying, "France no longer counts among the Catholic nations."

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