

Notes and Gleanings.

..A representative of a wholesale firm in Seoul, Korea, has arrived in this country, according to the statement of the *Literary Digest*, to contract for idols to be used in the heathen temples of his country and in China. An American firm has been bidding for this custom, and has at last received it.

..In Ontario there is a telephone to every 89 inhabitants; in Quebec, one to every 102; in British Columbia, one to every 63. The people in the United States have in use a telephone to every twenty inhabitants, while Sweden, Denmark and Norway have one to every fourteen.

..A Michigan genius has invented a candle which burns slowly and gives off an odor which, he claims, is pleasant to the human senses, but death to mosquitoes. If true, this man has made a fortune and brought a great boon to humanity. The mosquito is one of the most annoying pests as well as one of the most prolific carriers of disease with which we have to contend.

..Mr. Stanley tells of an interesting black race he came across while in the interior of Africa. They are called Wanoumas, and are European in type and very intelligent. He thinks they are descendants of the ancient Ethiopians, who settled in some way in equatorial Africa. They never intermingled with the aboriginal races, considering the negroes beneath them.

..Up to January last the subscriptions from Mussulmans all over the world for the construction of the Hedjaz Railway from Demascus to Mecca had reached the sum of sixty-two millions of piastres Turkish, or about \$2,500,000. Of this amount India contributed \$10,000, one Mussulman paper alone remitting \$3,223 to Constantinople. The road has now reached a point to the eastward of the Dead Sea.

..A plumber in New Haven, Conn., wore a celluloid collar. Now celluloid is made from much the same substance as gun cotton, and while it will not explode, it burns like benzine. This plumber was using a little furnace in a dwelling house to do some soldering when a spark fell on his collar, which of course burned like sulphur, encircling his neck with a ring of fire. He flung his burning clothes in every direction, setting fire to the house and endangering the lives of the inmates.

..Much has been said in the public press recently of the acousticon, an instrument for enabling the deaf to hear. The results obtained from it are said to be wonderful, but no satisfactory description of its method of working has yet appeared. It is said to operate by intensifying and concentrating sounds, and to include an electrical battery, a transmitter resembling that of a telephone, and a capsule containing a gas "whose composition is known only to the inventor." Under these circumstances, the public has no resource but to trust the papers and wait for further developments.

..Tradition says that the Queen of Sheba asked Solomon to thread an intricately pierced stone, and that he did so by means of a hair tied to a living worm. A long sewer in an Ohio factory recently became clogged, and a son of Solomon came to the rescue. Tying a long ball of twine to the shell of a mud-turtle, he put the animal into the entrance of the sewer and turned on a stream of water. The turtle burrowed his way through the refuse, was "watered on" at each manhole, and emerged victorious at the outlet. A rope attached to the twine, a swab and strong arms accomplished the rest swiftly and economically.

..The Yankees do not monopolize all the inventive genius of the world. An inventor of Birmingham, England, has just placed on the market a clock that will awaken a sleeper at any specified hour: Five minutes after the clock has

ready a cup of tea and a jug of hot water for shaving. All by itself the clock lights a spirit lamp, boils the water and tips it into the required receptacle. Then it extinguishes the lamp, and rings a second gong to notify the sleeper that tea is ready. Several questions propound themselves in this connection. How hygienic is the tea thus prepared. Can the sleeper take another nap after partaking of it? What will the insurance men think of clocks that are allowed all by themselves to light fires, especially alcohol lamps?

BRITISH POLITICS.

Joseph Chamberlain still figures largely in the public eye. He appeals to his fellow-countrymen to consider seriously whether they should revise their trade policy. For fifty years that policy has been to remove every trace of protection—to give free trade as wide scope as possible. It was hoped for a long time that other nations would follow this example. But this hope proved groundless. Negotiations of trade treaties ceased to be of use, for Great Britain had no further concessions to make. At this moment there are only ten or twelve articles imported into Great Britain and Ireland from which duty is exacted. The United States, Germany, France and other countries levy duties on possibly four thousand articles!

Mr. Chamberlain's aim is to bind the Empire together by sentiment, and also by commercial advantages. Germany and the United States have had no hesitation in shutting out by high tariffs many millions of pounds' worth of British manufactures at the very moment that the British were importing, duty free, millions worth of American and German goods. It is well known that the McKinley tariff ruined many once prosperous British industries. Now is it wise for any country to invite ruin in this way? Chamberlain believes it is better not to denude ourselves of the means of checking deliberate attacks upon our trade and manufacturers. Bind the Empire together and let every part be vitally interested in the prosperity of every other part. This is Chamberlain's way of promoting inter-imperial reciprocity and unity.

Mr. Chamberlain called attention to an instructive incident in current history. The continental nations took possession of the British sugar market by bounty-fed beet sugar, and almost destroyed the West Indies Sugar industry. They carefully regulated prices and production so as to keep possession of the market to the exclusion of British planters. The British government tried for years to persuade the continental governments to give up their policy of bounties, but never succeeded till it was resolved to meet the bounties by countervailing duties. Then, and not till then, the bounties were given up, and the force of British claims practically acknowledged.

The fate of the present government will be very seriously affected by the Education Act so extremely objectionable to the Nonconformists of England. We have good reasons to believe that the latest election was lost to the government because of the Education Act.

The Liberal party as such has not made a very strong fight against the Act. They had no conception of the pertinacity with which it was to be opposed, and their expectation was that the Opposition to it would likely die out. Evidently it is taken very seriously; and it will certainly affect the elections. The Irish members are now generally with the Government, and are not in the least degree in sympathy with the Nonconformists on the Education law.

We trust Canada will not forget the stupendous interest she has in the consolidation of the Empire. Far beyond

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trade policies the great idea stands vital and high, a fact for coming centuries: The British Empire embracing one-fourth of the area of the habitable globe and nearly, if not quite, one-fourth, of the world's inhabitants; the British Empire the refuge of the slave, the asylum of the distressed and oppressed of every nation under heaven. Let us not hesitate to do our whole duty towards the Empire. Otherwise tariffs and railways and anticipated developments will not avail us much. If the unity of the Empire is secured we shall be a part of the greatest and most beneficent power in the world; if the policy of blind and selfish drift is followed the Empire cannot but tumble to pieces and Canada cannot help being swallowed up by her good neighbor. We ought to work intelligently for the good future so that those who come after us may be citizens of the grandest and best of World-Empires. Parties rise and fall; tariffs may be increased or lessened; but a great Christian, free Empire is, and ought to be, for the ages.—*Presbyterian Witness*.

FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS.

At a great meeting held in London to celebrate the centenary of the English Sunday School Union, one speaker, advocating the work of the Union, said he believed in a fence at the edge of a precipice rather than a hospital at the bottom. In the earlier days of his Christian work he had thought a great deal more of converting an old man than a child. He had changed his opinion. "Save a grey head and you save a unit; save one of these boys and you save a multiplication table."

The *Saturday Evening Post* has sought and received from successful business men counsel to young men as to how to succeed. The advice of Samuel Sloan, a great railway magnate, strikes so just a keynote, and is so worthy of attention for its practical wisdom that we quote it.

He said, "I know of no better guide for the young man who waits to steer clear of failure than the Bible. The good old Book has lost none of its helpfulness in

the on-rolling of the centuries, and is today the best chart extant for the youthful voyager on life's stormy seas. It is the custom of some men to sneer at the teaching of Holy Writ, but they are not the men who have attained the greatest heights in either business or society. Let a young man study the wisdom of the Bible, and acquaint himself with its naked, strenuous truth, and he cannot go far wrong in his everyday life."

RULES BY WHICH TO RISE.

Under this topic a recent number of *Success* contained the following timely suggestions:

"Find your purpose and fling your life out to it.

"Try to be somebody with all your might.

"What is put into the first of life is put into the whole of life. Start right.

"The first thing you should do, if you have not done it, is to fall in love with your work.

"Don't brood over the past, nor dream of the future, but seize the instant and get your lesson from the hour.

"Don't wait for extraordinary opportunities; seize common occasions and make them great.

"A great opportunity will only make you ridiculous unless you are prepared for it.

"The lucky man is the man who sees and grasps his opportunity."—*The Watchword*.

You cannot legislate a sinner into a saint, but a saint can so legislate as to make himself a sinner.

Work and despair not. A bright heart will accomplish much. If added to this cheerful spirit we have a wise head, we shall accomplish more.

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