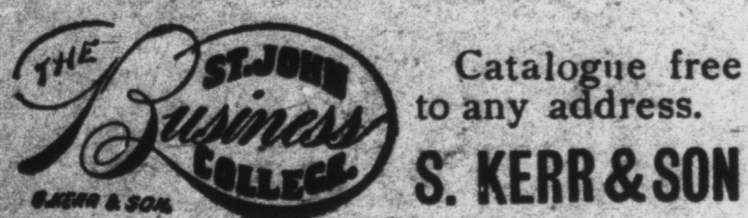


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APPOINTMENT.

I will (D. V.) be at Beaver Harbor the first Sunday in February. J. N. BARNES.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The resources of South Africa are only beginning to be known. In a general way it is known that it produces gold and diamonds. The diamond production is about \$20,000,000 a year. It would be larger, but this is all the world will take without a great break in prices. The diamond mines are under the control of a few people who are able to limit the output. The gold production has reached as high as \$80,000,000 per year, and will probably increase in the future. Coal has recently been discovered in large quantities, as well as large beds of iron ore, so that it may be that South Africa will one day supply a considerable portion of the iron used by the world. Copper and other minerals have also been discovered in large quantities. Extensive tin lodes have also been found, and owing to the scarcity of this metal this discovery is very important. In fact, almost every useful mineral known in the world is here. In addition to this, the country has great agricultural possibilities. It has thus far been devoted to stock raising, because the cattle man can make a living easier by pasturing his stock on hundreds of acres than by intensive farming. But South Africa is said to be well adapted to smaller farms. It is simply a new country, sparsely populated. Its great possibilities were seen by Cecil Rhodes and a few others, and is likely to become a productive land, in time supporting a large population.

A HOUSE FOR EVERY SEASON.

James W. Davidson, U. S. Consul to Formosa, has written an account of a unique tribe living in a small island adjacent to Formosa, who have a house for each season of the year—cold, wet and dry. Each family possesses a splendid walled and stone paved compound, wherein are three distinct houses, attesting the cleverness of the natives and their desire to obtain the maximum of comfort. One house, built half under ground, is their winter residence. For the warmer weather they have a comfortable building, elevated some feet above ground, and for protection against the heat of summer they have a tower-like edifice, sufficiently elevated to catch the cool breezes. These huts serve not only as habitations, but also as workshops and warehouses. In construction a considerable amount of wood is used as supports and cross-beams and for the inner floor, ceilings and walls of the two large huts. The elevated structure is of wood, bamboo and straw. A shelf projects level with the entrance, and the inhabitants are obliged to mount this and then crawl in on their fours, the doorway not being much larger than the entrance to a good-sized dog kennel. The room is like a large flat box, some seven by eight feet, and is so low that one lying down can almost touch the ceiling with uplifted hands; but the savages always squat, so the place is high enough for them.

THE LORD'S DAY.

Cardinal Gibbons, one of the great prelates of the Roman Catholic church in the United States, pays the following tribute to the value of the Sabbath: "The institution of the Sabbath has contributed more to the peace of good order of nations than could be accomplished by standing armies and the best organized police force." The truth of this declaration is emphasized by the fact that wherever the Sabbath is most faithfully observed as a day of rest and worship, there we have the highest respect for law and order. It pays communities in dollars and cents to maintain the Sabbath in its integrity.

What Christianity Can do for China.

The wide diffusion of Christianity in its best form will not suddenly introduce into China the millennium, for no goal can be reached without passing through all the intermediate stages. But it will, for the first time in Chinese history, realize the motto of the ancient T'ang, quoted at the opening of the Great Learning, "Renovate, renovate the people." Thus alone can the empire be adapted to the altered conditions brought about by the impact of Western civilization with its Pandora box of evil and of good.

The immediate future of China will depend, on the one hand, upon her relations with the powers, and on the other, upon the temper of the court, the temper of the officials, the temper of the literati, and the temper of the people. There is no possible way of reaching these various classes so well and so directly as through the native Chinese church, which has already suffered so much and borne such witness to its faith by its number. This truth has found expression in the notable magazine article in which Sir Robert Hart frankly declares that if, in spite of official opposition and popular irritation, "Christianity were to make a mighty advance," it might "so spread through the land as to convert China into the friendliest of friendly powers, and the foremost patron of all that makes for peace and good-will."

Unless China is essentially altered, she will continue to "imperil the world's future." Other forces have been, to some extent, experimented with, and have been shown to be hopelessly inadequate. Christianity has been tried upon a small scale only, and has already brought forth fruits after its kind. When it shall have been thoroughly tested, and have had opportunity to develop its potentialities it will give to China, intellectually, morally, and spiritually, the elixir of a new life.—Arthur H. Smith, in *China in Convulsions*.

HEROISM.—"I am scalded to death, but some of you get a red lamp and flag 49, or she will be on us." These words of a dying railway conductor, lying in terrible agony beside his wrecked train, deserve to be remembered. And this man's name deserves record. It was Lewis Helgoth. Another name deserving mention is that of Nicholas, the steward of the dining-car, who jumped from his car, ran to the smoker, plugged with his coat a broken pipe, through which steam was pouring on a lot of imprisoned passengers, climbed through a window of the car and worked at rescuing the injured till overcome by heat and steam. These heroic incidents occurred recently, when a train on the Baltimore and Ohio Railway ran into some ties dropped from a freight train and was derailed, killing over sixty persons.

A BISHOP'S ADVICE.—Addressing some young ministers recently, Bishop Fowler, of the Methodist Episcopal church, is reported as having said: "Never marry a woman just because she is pious. If it is put to you to choose between a woman who has a great deal of common sense and no religion, and a woman who has plenty of religion and no common sense, choose the woman with common sense, because she can get the religion within two hours after she marries you, but if she has religion and no common sense, she might backslide, and I have no doubt you would give her plenty of occasion to backslide."