

Notes and Gleanings.

The number of Chinese outside of China is estimated at over 7,640,000.

The liquor revenue of the Russian government will this year reach about \$358,000,000.

Don Luis Terragos, cattle king of Mexico, owns millions of acres, 1,000,000 cattle and 500,000 sheep.

Of the thirty-eight Sultans who have ruled the Ottoman empire since the conquest of Constantinople by the Turks, thirty-four have died violent deaths.

The Eskimo pay their doctors at each visit. If the patient recovers the doctor is allowed to keep the money, but if the man dies the doctor is expected to return the fee to the deceased's relatives.

An electrical tree has been discovered in a forest in Central India. Its leaves are of a highly sensitive nature, and so full of electricity that any one who touches one of them receives a shock.

With the assistance of the latest machines leather can now be transformed into a pair of boots in thirty-four minutes, in which time it passes through the hands of sixty-three people and through fifteen machines.

The loss incurred by the wearing of coins in circulation has been made the subject of a number of precise experiments, from which it was ascertained that the gold coins lose 3 1/2 per cent in 100 years. Large silver coins lose 1 3/4 per cent, and small ones 49 per cent.

The Irishman was cast upon an Island he did not know, and afterwards, on being asked what he did, said he walked along until he came upon a gallows with a man hanging on it, and he exclaimed, "Sure, this is a civilized country." He went a little further, and saw a drunken man, and then he cried, "Begorra, it's a Christian country."

A Spaniard's Estimates of Protestants.

An influential political paper in the north of Spain recently reported an interview with a member of the Costes upon his opinion of the Protestant movement in that country. His statement, based on his personal observations, was as follows:

"The influence of those missions has been declared at times to be political. This is a great mistake. Those who really know them can see clearly enough that their labor is one exclusively of religious propaganda. I have seen them in many places, and I can affirm that they do not ever mix themselves up in political questions, either national or local. They have followers, because our clergy are inferior to theirs, and because both the pastors and the evangelists and their wives devote themselves actively and intelligently to the teaching of the people, and with kindly hearts and ways are always ready to do what they can for the poor. It is lamentable to see the difference between the schools of the Protestants and the Catholic schools. Go into any of the villages where there is a Protestant centre and you will notice how inevitably the country people who join the Protestant ranks acquire a certain degree of culture. I have attended their meetings for worship and have acquainted myself with their schools, and I have noticed their excellent manners, and their intelligence. If they are insulted on the

streets, they let it pass. If persons implore their help or advice, it is given in a kindly way, without asking whether they are Protestants or Catholics."

BEAUTIES OF SIBERIA.

Siberia is so large that the entire United States could be set down in the middle of it without anywhere touching the border. It ranges from the latitude of Greenland to that of Italy. Mr. George Kennan, in "Siberia and the Exile System," thus describes some of the scenery:

"The country through which we passed was a rich, open, farming region, resembling somewhat that part of western New York which lies between Rochester and Buffalo. There were no extensive forests, but the gently rolling plain was diversified here and there by small patches of woodland, or groves of birch and poplar, and was sometimes cultivated as far as the eye could reach. Extensive stretches of growing wheat and rye alternated with wide fields of black, ploughed land not yet sown, and occasionally we crossed great expanses of prairie, whose velvety green-sward was sprinkled with dandelions, buttercups and primroses, and dotted in the distance with grazing cattle and sheep. Sometimes for miles together the roads ran through unfenced but cultivated land where men and women in bright-colored dresses were ploughing, harrowing, or weeding young grain; sometimes we plunged into a dense, cool forest, from the depths of which we could hear the soft notes of the shy cuckoos, and then we came out into a great sea of meadow blue with forget-me-nots, where field sparrows and warblers were filling all the air with joyous melody.

"Flowers met the eye everywhere in great variety and in almost incredible profusion. Never had we seen the earth so carpeted with them, even in California. The roadside was bright with wild roses, violets, buttercups, primroses, marsh-marigolds, yellow peas, iris, and Tartar honeysuckles; the woods were whitened here and there by soft clouds of wild cherry blossoms, and the meadows were literally great floral seas of color. In some places the beautiful rose-like flowers of the golden trolilius covered hundreds of acres with an almost unbroken sheet of vivid yellow; while a few miles further on the steppe, to the very horizon, was a blue ocean of forget-me-nots. I do not mean that they grew merely in great abundance; I mean that the grass everywhere was completely hidden by them, so that the plain looked as if a sheet of blue gauze had been thrown over it, or as if it were a great expanse of tranquil water reflecting a pale-blue sky. More than once these forget-me-not plains, when seen from afar, resembled water so closely as to deceive us both.

"Throughout the whole distance from Ekaterinburg to Tumen, wherever the country was open, the road was bordered on each side by a double or triple row of magnificent silver birches, seventy or eighty feet in height, set so closely together that their branches interlocked both along the road and over it, and completely shut out, with an arched canopy of leaves, the vertical rays of the sun. For miles at a time we rode between solid banks of flowers, through this beautiful white-and-green arcade, whose columns were the snowy stems of birches, and whose roof was a mass of delicate tracery and drooping foliage. The road resembled an avenue through an extensive and well-kept park, rather than a great Siberian thoroughfare, and I could not help feeling as if I might look up at any moment and see an English castle, or a splendid country villa. According to tradition, these birches were planted by order of the Empress Catherine II, and the part of the great Siberian road which they shade is known

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as 'Catherine's Alley.' Whether the object of the great Tsaritza was to render less toilsome and oppressive the summer march of the exiles, or whether she hoped by this means to encourage emigration to the country in which she took so deep an interest, I do not know; but the long line of beautiful birches have for more than a century kept her memory green, and her name has doubtless been blessed by thousands of hot and tired wayfarers whom her trees have protected from the fierce Siberian sunshine."

EVANGELISM IN THE ORIENT.

There is probably no mission work in Japan more important than that among the young men. Rev. J. C. Worley, in a recent letter from Japan, writes: "The educated young men of Japan are without religion. They have grown away from the religions of their fathers and are fast drifting into infidelity. Now is the time to save them, and we find them willing to investigate and accept the Christian religion when it is presented to them. We have baptized eight young men in the last three months, and we are sure that several more are almost ready to give their hearts and lives to God. These eight young men are among the best and most influential in Yamada; two of them are married, have considerable wealth, and are property owners; one is a business man, one a school teacher, one a mechanic, one a county official, one a lithographer, and one a high school student. Everywhere in Japan young men are seeking English instruction, and we have used that as a means of becoming acquainted with them."

How HE VIEWS IT.—Rev. Dr. Potts, Toronto, speaking of the Sunday-school convention at Jerusalem, says: "I consider the cruise and the convention the event of my life," and its effect on Sunday-school work in Palestine and Italy will be permanent and fruitful. My opinion is growing more and more that the Sunday-school work is the greatest work of the future for the church and the world. Those who go to Palestine for confirmation of the truth of the Bible will be satisfied. The Bible is a new book to me since I saw the Holy Land."

A TRAMP EVANGELIST.

A "Tramp Evangelist" is what the *New York Times* calls a man who goes about the country rescuing young boys from the life "on the road," and restoring them to their homes. The way he discovered his calling is of interest. He was formerly a business man, and, finding himself in a strange city without funds, he followed some tramps into an empty freight-car in a train which was bound for his home. In the company he found a young boy, whose story he learned and whom he persuaded to return to his home, from which he had run away. As he learned that there are a large number of boys who have been enticed away from their homes by tramps, he determined to close out his business, invest the proceeds in a reserve fund to draw on in case of need, and to give his life to saving boys from the vice of tramp life. He travels as a tramp, finds the boys, and wins their confidence, and persuades them to allow him to take them back home. He claims to have returned five hundred boys to their homes, and that there are at least 100,000 runaway boys who are living as tramps.

WHAT?—The *New York Sun* recalls the fact that a geography that was published only 35 years ago included the following bit of information: "It is generally supposed that the climate of the Northwest Territories is so severe that the country must forever remain a desolate waste." If this waste this year produced 95,000,000 bushels of wheat, 157,000,000 bushels of oats and 35,000,000 bushels of barley, taxing to their utmost the resources of the railways in moving the crop, what will the next 35 years bring forth?

1840. 1903.

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