

## Notes and Gleanings.

—Although there are over three million fakirs in India, one never starves except voluntarily, in self-punishment, so afraid are the natives of incurring the wrath of their multitudinous gods if the holy men are not cared for.

—In Siam some of the women entrust their children to the care of elephant nurses, and it is said that the trust is never betrayed. The babies play about the huge feet of the elephants, who are very careful not to hurt their little charges.

—Last year over a thousand million passengers travelled over the railways of England and Wales—28,000,000 first class; 67,000,000 second class; and 944,000,000 third class. Not a single fatal accident occurred to any one of these passengers.

—There are forty-five million peasants in Russia—who are always on the verge of starvation, and no wonder, for some of them have farms only forty-two inches wide and they are too poor to feed cattle or raise crops sufficient to feed the family, besides the laws allow no opportunity for honest ambition.

—Such are the improved hygienic conditions under which the inhabitants of the United Kingdom live, that the rate of mortality per 1,000 has fallen from 23.3 in 1846 to 17.7 in 1900, and to 16.2 in 1902. Unfortunately there has been little change in the death rate of infants.

—A jar of water containing a frog and a little wooden step-ladder form a quaint barometer used by the country people in many parts of Germany. When the frog comes out of the water and sits on the steps it is taken as an indication that rain is to be expected.

—The high price of rubber has stimulated discovery and inventive genius, and we are now told that a substitute has been found in the rabbit-weed, which grows over hundreds of thousands of acres of arid lands of Colorado and New Mexico. A factory for the extraction of Colorado rubber is just being established at Buena Vista, and it is thought that the industry will grow into large proportions.

—There is scarcely a dentist in China with its 400,000,000 of people. Here is a great opportunity for a dentist missionary who, while teaching the art of dentistry in connection with Christian education, can be self-supporting by his practice among foreigners, and contributes to the extension and popularizing of Christian mission work.

—Conducting funeral services by telephone is the latest innovation in Iowa. Death by diphtheria prevented the family of Miss Alice Conrad holding a funeral at home. To carry out the last request of the girl that her funeral be held at her Sunday-school hour, the telephone line running to her house was connected with the church. A large megaphone was attached to each end of the telephone, and thus the Rev. Sherman Kirk, of Drake University, in that city, preached to two audiences at the same time. Those at home heard the sermon and music almost as distinctly as the large audience in the church,

—Advertisements in the following strain appear every day in Japanese papers: "I am a very pretty girl. My hair is as wavy as a cloud. My complexion has the brilliancy and softness of a flower. My expression is as mobile as the leaf of the weeping willow. My brown eyes are like two crescents of the moon. I have enough worldly goods to pass happily through life with my husband, hand in hand, gazing at the flowers by day and the moon by night. If this should meet the eye of a man who is intelligent, amiable, and of good address, I will be his for life, and repose with him later in a tomb of red marble."

—The report of the librarian of Sing Sing prison shows that the prisoners, who number 1,200, prefer fiction, having read 29,381 books of that class the past year. A total of 40,500 books were read by the inmates of the prison. Of books in foreign languages German led with 1,686 volumes. In estimating the literary tastes of the visitors, it should be remembered that they have only a limited space of time at their disposal for reading. The population of Sing Sing is thus shown to be the reverse of illiterate, and quite cosmopolitan in composition.

### THE ENGLISH LIQUOR BILL.

Petitions are pouring into the British Parliament urging that body to refuse to give the liquor traffic the advantages which the new government bill proposes to confer upon it. The *Scottish Reformer* gives us the following information of the strength of this movement up to the early part of June.

Feeling in the country against the Licensing Bill is shown by the number of petitions to Parliament against it. An official return issued gives the actual figures. They are:

Petitions against, . . . . . 3,187  
Signatures against, . . . . . 63,376

In addition to this, other petitions have been presented against alterations of the law relating to the renewal of licenses. The numbers are:

Petitions against, . . . . . 3,394  
Signatures against, . . . . . 55,064

Turning to the feeling in favor of the Licensing Bill, the figures come out thus:

Petition for, . . . . . 1  
Signatures for, . . . . . 253

Seldom has there been so great a contrast in figures.

### AN ACCOUNT WITH THE LORD.

A writer in the *Dominion Presbyterian* tells of a friend who undertook to keep a daily account with the Lord.

On one side of the ledger he credited himself with whatever he did for the Lord; the money he gave to religious or benevolent causes, the kind actions he performed, the various efforts he put forth at soul-saving and such like. On the other side he put down whatever the Lord did for him. If a friend cheered him on his way; if health was restored after sickness; if some unexpected pleasure came to him; if he was prospered in his worldly affairs, it was all credited to the Lord, the Giver of every good and perfect gift. After a few weeks of this bookkeeping he gave it

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## Tennant, Davies & Clarke

up. "It's no use," he said one day, "I can never get a balance. I am simply getting hopelessly into debt. The Lord's side of the account is assuming alarming proportions, and my side is so poor and insignificant in comparison that I have resolved to give up keeping the account and simply acknowledge myself a hopeless bankrupt."

### DRINK AND WAR.

Recent dispatches from the seat of war inform us that open indulgences in Drink by the Russians had assumed such appalling dimensions that Gen. Kuropatkin had issued stringent orders prohibiting the sale of liquors. This is very significant; and who will say that the abstemious character of the Japs has not had much to do with their bravery and endurance during the present campaign?

The Russian general evidently has come to realize what the history of all recent wars teach—that drink is not only unnecessary, but injurious to soldiers in the performance of their arduous work. Sis Evelyn Wood, in 1882, testified: "Throughout the Crimea these were the best and healthiest sailors and soldiers who did not touch intoxicating drink." A few years later, Lord Wolseley wrote: "There are yet some great enemies to be encountered by the United Kingdom. But the most pressing enemy is drink. It kills more than all our newest weapons of warfare, and not only destroys the body, but the mind and soul also." The Ashantee War, the famous Red River Expedition, and not so long ago the series of brilliant and decisive achievements in the Soudan campaign of 1898 by Lord Kitchener and his troops were accomplished on nothing stronger than water. And have we not the authority of the field marshal that those wonderful British marches in the South African campaign were accomplished through the remarkable steadiness of the troops?

No danger is more subtle or fatal than the philosophy which disparges the value of church attendance. Break up the Christian assembly for a generation, and Christ's grip upon the nation is broken. The sense of God and the sense of sin, the august beauty of truth and the high dignity of duty, the sweetness of communion and the raptures of heaven, all these are heightened and made real in the great congregation. We kindle one another and lift one another when as brethren we meet to meditate and pray.—*Dom. Presbyterian.*

The trial at Hampton of Oscar Wright on the charge of manslaughter, in the killing of Wm. McKnight at Havelock, K. Co., begun last week and was ended Monday. The verdict was not guilty. The prisoner was discharged.

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