

AN UNSOLVED PROBLEM

ROYAL COMMISSION'S REPORT ON SCOTCH CHURCH SITUATION.

No Satisfactory Compromise. The Anomalous State of Affairs Begun by Lord's Decision—What the Commission Recommends—Another Commission Needed—"Keep the Door Open Till the Last Moment."

Of historical importance is the document in which the Royal Commission reports on the church situation in Scotland. This commission, it will be remembered, was appointed last December as a result of the House of Lords' decision, which declared the Free Church of Scotland, a mere handful of scattered congregations, the legal owner of all the fine buildings, churches and great endowments of the United Free Church. The case had been pending for years, and the decision was a bolt from the blue, at once there came the situation which has been a reproach to Christianity. From the Highland fastnesses, fanatical members of the Free Church descended to the populous cities, and attempted to confiscate the property of the United Free congregations. Churches were locked up, schools closed, ministers evicted from manses. There were disgraceful scenes in many pulpits, where rival ministers contended for the attention of the scandalized congregation. The utmost bitterness was manifested, and the religious life of the whole country staggered beneath a blow which almost paralyzed it for the time being.

No Satisfactory Compromise. It was to relieve such a state of affairs that a Royal Commission was appointed. The province of this tribunal was to consider not the legal aspects of the case (the Lords' decision is final), but its equity. It was instructed to examine the historical documents, and then recommend what steps should be taken to solve the problem. This has been done, but it does not appear that the contending parties are very well pleased with the result. Feeling has been too intense to leave room for a satisfactory compromise, and it is significant of the passions which have been provoked, that the commission at no place suggests that the churches at once end the difficulty by uniting. To a layman this seems the obvious remedy, and we have not the slightest doubt that Solomon had been trying the case, would have thus decided. What rival forms divide the two branches we are not competent to say, but that it is merely a form and not a substance may be safely asserted. It is a disgrace to the cause which each church professes to serve, that either would, as soon think of leaving with the national church of China as with another.

What the Commission Recommends. Probably the most important part of the report is that in which the following passage occurs: "We are forced to the conclusion that the Free Church, from the paucity of its numbers and the poverty of its resources, is incapable of carrying on the religious work of the churches which it represents, and therefore of putting to their proper purpose the enormous endowments with which it claims to be entrusted. But, on the other hand, it would be unjust that these endowments, or the greater part of them, should be handed over absolutely and without condition to the United Free Church. We are satisfied that as far as its material and normal resources are concerned this church can perform efficiently the trust purposes which cannot be performed by its rival. Nor do we think that the judgment which must be received with all submission presently, is that the United Free Church is in an equitable adjustment which we think expedient in the interests of religion and of the people of Scotland as well of the rival churches."

Another Commission Needed. This unmistakably points to some

THOMAS A. EDISON, the inventor, in mapping out the first place to the necessity of fighting the bacteria which give us our diseases. Next to the actual bacteria, the disease, the mosquitoes and flies are the most dangerous enemies of man. The mosquito with its bite injects into our veins malaria, yellow fever, and other fatal troubles. They, with spongy feet, collect the invisible germs of disease, spreads them over our food and poisons us with typhoid, cholera and other plagues of the human race.

Dr. Pierce, the eminent physician of Buffalo, N. Y., says, "If each person will consider his system as an army of men which he controls as a general, he will find that proper provisioning and that it has plenty of ammunition in the shape of good red blood, he will be able to overcome the enemy in these germs of disease. Every healthy man has five million red blood corpuscles to every square millimeter of blood. The best tonic for increasing the red blood corpuscles and building up healthy tissue is no doubt Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. This medicine has been on the market for over a third of a century and numbers its cures by the thousands.

Accept no substitute for Golden Medical Discovery. There is nothing but good for diseases of the stomach, blood and lungs. Neglected constipation means headache, neuralgia, sour stomach, foul taste in the mouth, biliousness, pimples, and palpitation of the heart. Constipation is promptly cured by Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. One box mild cases, otherwise two.

A Painter of Gardens. George S. Figgood, the English artist, is acknowledged to be the greatest living painter of gardens. He has furnished a series of fifty water colors, which are said to be the best work he has ever done. A noted operative tenor said of them that "each one strikes high C."

That woman is a bore who harps upon the eternal servant question.

CORELLI ON SIMPLE LIFE.

Happiest Way of Living, Says English Novelist—Honesty Its Chief Ingredient—Friends and Foes.

All England is torn up with the discussion of the simple life, and ladies of high and low degree are taking part in it. Mrs. Correll, the novelist, recently expressed herself very decidedly in her familiar breezy manner on social problems in The London Graphic. In the main what she has to say about the simple life applies as well to Canada as it does to England and is worth reading. It runs as follows: "The fact that the simple life is the happiest life is obvious—but, notwithstanding this, the latter day mania for money and ever more and more money shows no sign of abating in its feverish intensity. I can truthfully assert that no one lives a greater optimist than I. But I set my belief on the masses, not on the classes. The masses lead a simple life because they are perforce compelled to do so, and they persuade themselves that it is a hard life merely because of contrast they are accorded to have between it and the other criminal luxury in which the classes of to-day elect to live.

For the chief ingredient of the simple life is honesty—honesty in the relations of man with his brother man, honesty of purpose, honesty of speech, such accounts of the modern ways of modern life as are chronicled in the daily press alone—that this quality is entirely lacking to what is called 'society' in this twentieth century. "Men skulk and shuffle, letting 'Women dare not wait upon' the patriarch occupy themselves with the most dishonorable intrigues and seldom have the intellectual grace or dignity to draw the line at those of their own sex who are guilty of flagrant immorality or marital dishonor, which they might do if they used the power which they undoubtedly hold in social cleanliness. They are afraid to offend."

"But who is to be offended? Why should any man or woman so tie himself or herself as to be afraid of anything? It is surely better to speak fairly and plainly to a fellow man than to hit him in the back and then run away. "The simple life, if followed simply, should make for honest dealing with ourselves and with others. What is the good, for example, of entertaining at one's house people whom one does not care for and never really wishes to become intimate with? Oh, but custom and observance, says the lady of fashion, 'make it necessary to 'clear off all these people' once a year! "Clearing off all these people means an 'at home,' on which considerable cash is wasted and which is usually in nothing more than a shuffling crowd pushing and treading on each other's feet—not one single unit of which crowd probably has a thought in common with the host or hostess.

"You who would live the simple life are not called upon to do more than entertain your friends. Mark the word 'entertain.' Friends are few; they need little entertainment. Their pleasures is to be with you, and yours to be with them. They will not ask you for '\$25,000 worth of roses' or 'gifts for the cotillon at \$500 apiece.' They will expect your interest, your sympathy, your kindness, your fidelity, and if they receive these they will be more than satisfied.

"For the simple life has always this advantage—that it knows its friends as friends indeed and its foes as foes indeed. And the very foundation of true friendship is honesty. Emerson says: 'A friend is a person with whom I may be sincere. Before him I may think aloud.' There is no existing cause in the whole universe for people to play the hypocrite with one another. "The simple life is only for honest, plain-dealing people who are easily contented and who find pleasure in simple, everyday things, simple everyday things generally proving to be the chief sources of unalloyed happiness. To such people may be repeated the words of the angel to the Prophet Esdras: 'Unto you is paradise opened; the tree of life is planted; the time to come is at hand; rest is allowed you, perfect goodness and wisdom!'"

Charles Dickens' Mss. With regard to the despatches which appeared the other day in the American papers, to the effect that J. Pierpont Morgan was making a sort of library, corner in the Museum of Charles Dickens and was gradually acquiring copies of all of them, it may be just as well to state that this is quite impossible. For, with the exception of the original Mss. of "Our Mutual Friend," all the original Mss. of Charles Dickens' novels are in the possession of the British Government, and preserved in the South Kensington Museum in London, to which national institution they were bequeathed. The Mss. of "Our Mutual Friend" was owned by the late George W. Childs of Philadelphia, to whom the late Sir Philip Cunliffe-Owen offered on behalf of the English Government the sum of \$10,000, so as to complete the collection at South Kensington. But Mr. Childs could not make up his mind to part with the treasure, which other remains in the possession of his widow or else was bequeathed by him to one of the public institutions of Philadelphia. From this it will be seen that at the best Mr. Morgan might obtain some Mss. of a magazine article written by Charles Dickens.

State Control of Liquor. A bill to create a State monopoly of the liquor trade in Guernsey will come before the States of the island—the local Parliament. The bill empowers the States to take over the retail liquor businesses on January 1, 1905, and to install the present proprietors as managers, with instructions not to encourage the sale of drink. The bill provides that no drink shall be sold to minors under the age of eighteen, that no musical attractions be allowed, and that all the bars be open to the view of passersby. Compensation is recommended to the present licenseholders. The profit of the monopoly, it is proposed to devote to the relief of taxation.

England Flouts Crinoline Idea. The fashionable dressmakers of London who have houses in Paris, have decided there is no indication of a revival of the crinoline at present, even though in Paris some dubiousness is expressed about the future. The representative of a famous French house in London threw cold water on the idea. "Yes, full skirts, even very full skirts, by all means," she said, "and perhaps just a very little silk wire and stiffening to make the folds flow out gracefully, but not the crinoline. In Paris should wear the crinoline, English women are very likely to follow suit. For one thing, they would have too much good sense, and for another, they are too fond of outdoor sports."

Redfern's, in London, expressed the view that the crinoline, whether it be revived or not, could never again become general. "Perhaps the most significant statement was made by a modiste much patronized by royalty. The Queen's taste, she pointed out, has always been in the direction of simplicity and grace. She would probably be the last person to wear a crinoline. "This fact in itself would be more than sufficient to render unsuccessful any attempt to make the crinoline popular.

STARS AT CLOSE RANGE.

Canada's New Observatory At The Ottawa Experimental Farm Equipped With A Giant Telescope.

The Government astronomers have been lately translated from dingy offices in Ottawa to a brand new domed building on the Government farm. The intention is that the Experimental Farm is to be the green-wink in Canada. A new fifteen-inch telescope has been erected with which to help on the good work. Things happen to the sun; things happen on the earth. The scientist believes that there is a direct relationship between these things, but he has yet to find it. It is the missing link in meteorology. When the astronomer finds out what comes between the monkey and the man in the solar system he will, so he declares, have done the greatest of all great things for the material welfare of mortal man. Canada's new telescope may yet be the means to this end. This telescope cost a thousand dollars an inch, when you come to consider it as a "15-inch" telescope, which means that the lens—the important part of the instrument—is 15 inches in diameter. The whole cost was a little over \$15,000. The telescope is only a baby, compared with the big spy-glasses of the Lick and Yerkes observatories, but it is a powerful magnifier all the same. It is as perfect as the age has learned to make it, and is big enough for the work it has to do. A telescope may be too large. Some of the big ones of the scientific world are 36 inches and over—cannot be used to clear up capacity except for part of the year. The explanation is that they magnify the atmospheric waves, and so make trouble for themselves. Prof. King's new telescope is 19 feet long. The mechanical part was built in Cleveland, the birthplace of the Lick and Yerkes machines. The glass was ground in Allegheny, Pa.

Down below the foundation of the observatory walls there begins the sub-structure of a huge pier which goes right up into the dome and ends with an iron column. On top of the iron column is the telescope. The whole mechanism of this huge magnifier is of the finest and most delicate work. You can swing the telescope up or down, or any way at all with one hand and the turn of a little wheel, and it moves without the faintest squeak. A photographic apparatus is attached to it, and the whole thing turns on an axis, which means that any other pointing due north and south. The angle at which any telescope works must be determined according to the exact latitude of the particular locality. You get to Canada's telescope by climbing a succession of stairways. When you find yourself in the dome the chances are that you will be surprised. You will be in the roof of the whole dome to be moving round. Your suspicions will be set at rest when you see that somebody is pulling a rope, that there are wheels everywhere, and indications of ball bearings. The dome, you will be told, is made of a huge steel frame, which came from Cleveland.

Before very long you will find that there is something else that moves. You ascend a wooden structure like miniature baseball bleachers, preparatory to a look through the telescope. You find that the bleachers are moving. They are on wheels. Moreover, the contrivances are such that the astronomer can sit up aloft and move his telescope and his perch around without coming down. "All this is necessary because there are different stars in different places—there are three hundred in the catalogue of the astronomy—and every star moves. Even the so-called fixed stars move, though in circles of their own. The astronomer aims his telescope at a star and settles himself to watch. The telescope follows the star. It is all down to a fine point. There is a clock in the mechanism of the telescope. The clock knows all about the star and keeps the telescope in the right path. One of the queer things that this big telescope enables you to do is to look around corners. It is done by means of a little brass elbow fitted with reflectors on a principle which has before now been employed in unconventional ways. The elbow is convenient when the telescope is pointing almost straight up in the air and the astronomer can't very well get under it.

The candidate for initiation into the stellar mysteries goes up into the Observatory tower. He sees the roof open. He sees the big spy-glass swing noiselessly into place at the bidding of the astronomer, and he prepares himself for something celestial at close range. The telescope shows him a bright light like a flame around which is a purple haze. The light is due to atmospheric movements. It is told open. He sees the light in Alpha Orians, the star of the first magnitude, in the constellation of Orion. The star is thirty or forty "light years" away from him. Light travels at the rate of 186,000 miles a second. Figure it out for yourself.

A Long Military Career. Mr. Allan George Payne, the veteran who recently died in Toronto, was fifty years of age, and his record was a wonderful one. He was a trooper in the 17th Lancers, serving in the Zulu campaign of a quarter of a century ago under Buller, and present at Ulundi. Obtaining his discharge, he went to Australia, where he joined the Colonial forces, and remained for twelve years. From Australia he went to Natal, and when the late war broke out he joined Thorneycroft's Horse, serving through the campaign under Gen Buller, his commander of twenty years previously. For this service he wore the medal with seven bars, including the relief of Ladysmith with Lord Dundonald. Only seven months ago he came to Canada with his mother, with whom and his sister he lived in Toronto. Mr. Payne had been engaged with the Otto Elgel Co. as night-watchman, but was to have left his employment the day after he died, having recently received \$500 from Australia, which he had invested in a market garden at Walls Hill.

His High Hope. The ambitious young merchant crossed the shapely hand of the heiress. "Dear little hand!" he murmured absently. "So delicate! So fragile! And yet I hope some day to see it lift the heavy mortgage that's on my store!"

His Spats. "And do you mean to say, madam, that you and your husband never had any spats?" "My husband had a pair once, sir, but he gave 'em to the boy who sprinkled our grass."

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JUDICIAL TANTRUMS.

After a service of nearly thirty years as Recorder of Dublin, Sir Frederick Faulkner is about to retire at the age of seventy-four.

Sir Frederick is noted throughout Ireland as one of the most irritable Judges upon the bench, and he is not slow to uncoil the coils of his wrath when anything in the handling of a case evokes his displeasure. In his earlier days he was constantly the target of the Irish humorist, his bark was worse than his bite, and after a while the counsel practicing in his court learned to receive with stolidity his tirades of abuse. It was astonishing to a chance visitor to behold a Recorder dressing down a lawyer who stood silent before the torrent of words, but the lawyer well knew that before the court closed the Recorder would make amends for his outbreak by singling the unfortunate attorney to be the recipient of some marked compliment.

The retirement of Sir Frederick will remove from the Irish bench one of its most picturesque figures, but his memory will live in the legal fraternity through the good stories told of his outbreaks and apologies. Hong Kong First. The importance of the Far East in the commerce of the world at the present time is strikingly illustrated by this statement, made by the United States bureau of statistics: The port at which in 1903 was the largest vessel tonnage movement was Hong Kong. The total amount of the tonnage of the vessels entering and clearing from it was about 20,000,000 or 41 per cent of the total for the foreign trade. London is second, with 19,000,000, followed closely by Antwerp. The tonnage of New York in 1904 was 18,000,000. Hong Kong, it may be remembered, is a free port, which means that it is free from the Chinese, Japanese and Australasian trade call. London would head the list but for the fact that often its vessels take part of their cargo from another British port, as Cardiff, and receive their foreign clearance at it.

Cat Alive After Three Weeks. That a cat has nine lives has often been stated, but it remained for Ino Foreman to demonstrate it as a fact. Says The Temiskaming Herald: "Some three weeks ago he brought home several loads of hay and piled them away in a tiny shed. The other day he was taking some out to feed his cows and heard a cat meowing somewhere. One of the boys instituted a search, and found the poor animal stowed away under the hay, long and lean, but still in a cat and able to 'yowl.' It was alive all right," says Mr. Foreman.

The Spider. The spider has a tremendous appetite, and his gormandizing defies all human competition. An scientist, who carefully noted a spider's consumption of food in twenty-four hours concluded that if the spider were built proportionately to the human scale he would eat at daybreak (approximately) a small alligator, by seven a. m. a lamb, by nine p. m. a young camelopard, and by one o'clock a sheep, and would be up on his tank-pipe in which there were 120 birds.

Rembrandt a Unique Figure. The sudden uprising of art in Holland produced in the person of Rembrandt one of the foremost artists of the world. He is one of the few great original men who stand alone. You cannot trace his genius to the influence of his time or to the work of other men who preceded him; and, although he had followers, none of them could do what he did. He shines out in solitary brightness like a Shakspeare or Beethoven or Michael Angelo.—St. Nicholas.

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THE PANTRY

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