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Editorial Notes and Comment

AFRICA has been brought more prominently to the attention of the world than ever by the European war. England had large possessions there and now has captured all of the immense German colonies on that continent. If, when the war is over, she is allowed to retain all this territory, she will own a very large proportion of the whole of Africa. Few people realize the enormous size of this continent or its vast wealth. It contains one fourth of all the land on the earth. It is four times as large as the United States. One eighth of the population of the world lives in its borders. The coal fields aggregate 800,000 square miles. Its copper fields are equal to those of North America and Europe combined. Its iron ore is five times that of North America. It has 40,000 miles of river and lake navigation.

AFRICA is still the Dark Continent. This is true, notwithstanding the wonderful mission work that has been done among the natives. In the whole country there is only one missionary for each 133,000 of the population. There are 843 languages and dialects. Only a few of these have been reduced to writing, and so very few of the people can have the Bible. Mohammedanism is spreading very rapidly. Every third person in Africa is a Mohammedan. There are 4,000,000 of them south of the equator. Is there not need for missionaries to carry the light of life into these dark regions?

WE SEE that Charles T. Russell, who calls himself "Pastor Russell," is about to make a tour through a number of Southern cities. Pastors and others in these cities and else where ought to inform themselves as to his doctrines and practices, and by making them known in their true light, counteract his nefarious influence. No man in all this country is doing the cause of vital godliness more harm than he. He preaches doctrines that are in direct conflict with the teaching of the Scriptures, but which are very pleasing to the carnal heart. There are some who think Russell is not reaching many people. If you believe this, just attend one of his meetings, when he comes into your community.

TURNING away those who are applying for membership in the Christian Church is an unusual experience. And yet we are told that this is what occurs frequently in Africa and in India. So many are applying to be received into the Church in these countries that the missionaries cannot give them proper training. There are not enough helpers to teach the applicants, and so they must wait. Will the Christian Church allow this state of affairs to continue, and fail to reap this harvest of souls?

REV. DR. EWING, of Edinburg, one of the chaplains of the Mediterranean expeditionary force, relates this interesting incident: I found a lad, he writes, suffering from a number of superficial wounds, any one of which, with the slightest change in direction, might have proved fatal. He told me a thrilling story of his escapes. I asked him if these things did not make a man think seriously. He looked up with a quiet smile, and said, I have done my thinkin' afore, from which you will gather that he was a fellow countryman, and one of the sort whom it is good to meet. That is the preparedness that the soul needs.

MORMONISM is one of the great curses of this land. It has always been and is still based upon polygamy. When the State of Utah applied for admission into the Union, it was admitted upon the assurance, on the part of the leaders of the Church, that polygamy had been entirely abandoned under a revelation from heaven. No well informed man has ever believed that its practice has ceased. Now there comes a curious and an unanswerable proof of its continued practice. When Reed Smoot was elected United States Senator effort was made to keep him out of the Senate on the ground that polygamy was still recognized by the Mormon Church. To prove this it was charged that David Eccles, one of the twelve apostles of the Church, had a polygamous wife. Placed on the witness stand this alleged wife, Margaret Geddes Eccles, swore that she had never been married to Eccles and that he was not the father of her son. Recently Eccles died, leaving a fortune of twenty-five millions, but he left no will. Margaret brought suit to secure a share of this fortune for herself and her son. In this trial she swore that she had perjured herself in Washington, and the secretary of the president of the Mormon Church swore that this marriage had been recognized by the presidency of the Church as authentic. This Church was so anxious to conceal the facts of this trial from the public that a special reporter of a New York paper had to carry his report to Denver to get it telegraphed from there, as he could not get it out of Utah on the wires. Are the Associated Press and the telegraph companies so under control of the Mormon Church that they will not give the news in regard to matters connected with that Church? How long are true Americans going to submit to having this blot upon the fair escutcheon of this nation? Two things ought to be done. Congress ought to pass necessary laws and see that they are enforced. The Christian Church ought to increase very largely the mission work it is doing in that State. Roman Catholic Mexico or heathen China does not need the religion of Jesus Christ any more than Utah.

AMERICA is the richest country in the world to-day, and its wealth is increasing by leaps and bounds. These are statements which business publications are making. And when we look about us and see the increasing evidences of money spent for comforts and luxuries we can well believe it. Is this increased wealth going to be a blessing or a curse? It will depend entirely upon how it is used. It will be a blessing, if the Lord is given His proper share. Otherwise it will be a curse. Are we, as a Church, giving to Him the portion that He is entitled to, when, with all of our riches we fail to provide the comparatively small amounts asked for to do the work which the Church has undertaken to do for Christ? Brethren, think on these things.

THE great war is bringing the countries of Central and South America into closer connection with the United States, than they have ever been before. This is growing out of the fact that those countries find that they have now to depend upon this country for most of the articles of commerce, which they were accustomed to get from Europe. The result will be that the people of these countries will become better acquainted with each other than they now are. Out of their business relations strong bonds of personal and national friendship will grow up. The Church should be ready to take advantage of present conditions in our southern neighbors, just as our business men are doing "The field is white unto the harvest."

HAITI is sometimes looked upon as scarcely civilized. And there has been some ground for this opinion. Nominally Roman Catholic the religion of the people in some sections was in reality African voodooism. Serpents were worshiped, as are trees and plants, which are supposed to be the dwelling places of evil spirits. The witch doctor is supreme. Even the president of the republic is said to tremble before him. From Haiti a young man named L'Herison went to Paris to study art. He determined to paint a picture of Christ. In preparation for this task he studied the New Testament. Instead of painting Christ he loved and trusted him. He threw aside his brushes and returned to his native island to tell the story of Jesus. He began work in Jacmeil, a veritable hotbed of voodooism. The result is that there is now in that town a Baptist church of 700 members, with a good building they have erected, and in the surrounding country this church has built several chapels. The door of the church is made from a tree that used to be worshiped. Its owner was converted and gave the tree for that purpose. When it was being cut down a great crowd of the heathen gathered to see what evil would befall the sacrilegious Protestants.