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The *Current* of Chicago, declares that "if the workingmen of America permit the abolition of the 'Puritan Sabbath' they will prove themselves a nation of dunces." And quoting or inventing the "claim of the millionaire that he cannot spare the time between Saturday and Monday," it says: "But that same millionaire goes from Florida to Yellowstone Park, from Bar Harbor and Moosehead Lake to Santa Barbara, and is often resting two months at a time. The workingman must get his Santa Barbara and San Augustine in weekly instalments; and if he do not stand by the church in protecting Sunday the millionaire and the corporations will soon have it all their own way."—*The Presbyterian*.

We are admonished of the approach of winter by the shortening of the hours of daylight and the coolness of the nights. The family circle is being drawn more closely around the cheerful hearthstone. In a comfortable home, how delightful it is for families to gather during the long winter evenings in the living rooms, safe from the cold and storms that beat upon the outer walls. At such times good books and papers are useful and highly appreciated by those who, understanding their value, have provided them for their own and others' enjoyment. It would prove a great blessing to them if every family could be aroused to the importance of taking a good family religious paper, and providing a stock of good books for winter reading. They would be astonished at the pleasure derived from them, and be slow to neglect the matter in the future. The children of persons in very humble circumstances have received their first impulse toward an education from good books and the religious paper.—*Selects*.

"In the best books, great men talk to us, with us, and give us their most precious thoughts. Books are the voices of the distant and the dead. Books are the true levelers. They give to all who will faithfully use them, the society and the presence of the best and greatest of our race. No matter how poor I am; no matter though the prosperous of my own time will not enter my obscure dwelling, learned men and poets will enter and take up their abode under my roof,—if Milton will cross my threshold to sing to me of Paradise; and Shakespeare open to me the world of imagination and the workings of the human heart; and Franklin enrich me with his practical wisdom,—I shall not pine for want of intellectual companionship, and I may become a cultivated man, though excluded from what is called the best of society in the place where I live. Nothing can supply the place of books. They are cheering and soothing companions in solitude, illness or affliction. The wealth of both continents could not compensate for the good they impart."—*Channing*

The government of Japan has issued the following proclamation with drawing official patronage from Shintoism and Buddhism. "It is hereby notified that the Shintoist and Buddhist official priesthood has been abolished and the former of appointing and discharging incumbents of religious temples monasteries, and the promotion and degradation in rank of preceptors, has been transferred to, and will henceforth be exercised by religious superintendents of those sects under the following special provisions." Then follow certain articles in reference to the duties of the superintendents and relieving the government of all responsibility for the conduct of religion.

The *Japan Mail* says: "The time has nearly come when complete freedom of conscience must obtain in Japan and as a preliminary to that most desirable condition, the plain course of the authorities is to disassociate themselves from all connection with this or that form of creed. Buddhism and Shintoism alike are now connected with the government by such a slender tie that their statues may be extended to Christianity without much difficulty." A recent writer from Japan says: "This movement has caused a great stir there and forms the principal topic of conversation. The native Christians are greatly rejoiced not for what it brings to them now, but for what it foreshadows."

A grand cathedral has been built in Moscow to commemorate the retreat of Napoleon from Russia. Immediately on the withdrawal of the French, Alexander I decreed the erection of the memorial temple. Foundations were laid, and nearly two million dollars were expended or wasted; and then by the Emperor Nicholas a new site was chosen, and work was begun on the present building. The site cost, with embankment, terrace, etc., the sum of \$900,000. The foundations were laid in 1838, and the walls were completed twenty years after. A quarter of a century more has been expended in fittings and decorations. The largest bell weighs twenty-six tons. The cost of the whole peal was upward of \$65,000. The five copper cupolas cost \$850,000. The doors cost \$300,000. The interior is very gorgeous. The two rows of candelabra around the cupola cost \$200,000, and the total number of candles to be lighted throughout the building is upwards of 3,000. At the top of the cupola is a painting representing the colossal proportions of the first person of the Trinity as an old man, with the infant Jesus. The height of the figure is forty-nine feet, the length of the face seven feet, and the height of the infant twenty-one feet. Also below the cupola are a number of figures of Apostles and Fathers, each twenty-one feet high. The edifice will accommodate 10,000 worshipers, and its total cost was over eleven million dollars.