

Dominion Presbyterian

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Chicago University is the beneficiary of another gift of \$3,000,000 from its founder, Mr. John D. Rockefeller. This brings the total of Mr. Rockefeller's gifts to the University up to \$21,416,921.91.

It is reported that the Vatican is about to establish a Catholic University in the city of Tokio, to be controlled by American Jesuits. The matter is in the hands of Bishop O'Connell, now Archbishop-coadjutor of New England, who was sent to Japan by the Pope last year.

In 1903 the State of New Hampshire went back on its long-prevailing policy of state prohibition, and the eleven cities of the State voted back the saloon. But six of the eleven accepted the first opportunity to reverse that decision, and have gone back to prohibition. In one city, with a large foreign population, the two Roman Catholic priests of the place were leaders of the no-license forces. That looks like progress.

The Belfast Witness notes the death in Scotland of Mrs. Cousin, widow of a former Free Church minister of Irvine and recalls the fact that she was the author of the well-known and popular hymn, "The Sands of Time are Sinking," No. 346 in our Presbyterian Book of Praise. The hymn had originally nineteen verses, of which a small but varying number find a place in our chief hymnals, the order being transposed to give the semblance of completeness.

Tennessee has been making a good record for temperance-legislation during recent years and two important forward steps were taken in the last week of 1906. The town of Winchester, one of the few remaining cities where liquor is sold, voted by a large majority to banish the saloon, and the city of Nashville adopted a segregation measure by which all saloons in the capital of the state will be confined to a small area in the business district, and the residence sections of the city will enjoy freedom from the corner groggery.

This clipping is worth treasuring up in the memory: "Remember that a letter written and sent goes you know not where and lives perchance for ages. There it stands, as a witness against you, for all time. It can never be recalled or changed, and what you say sits everlastingly in judgment upon you, like a slice out of the day of judgment." What an immense amount of good might be accomplished if writers of letters in their correspondence would take occasion to say a few words now and again to press the claims of religion upon those whom they are addressing. An arrow shot at a venture may reach a tender spot in somebody's heart.

Thursday, January 10th., the Rev. Dr. Theodore L. Cuyler in his home in Brooklyn celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday. There was no public reception in honor of his birthday, because of the possible strain on his strength. But all day flowers came to the door, and letters and telegrams poured in from all parts of the country. In the evening Dr. McAfee, pastor of the Lafayette church, of which for so many years Dr. Cuyler was the minister, called with a testimonial address from the officers of the church. More than any man we know in the history of the Christian ministry, Dr. Cuyler has borne fruit in his old age, and his pen has a ministry of counsel and of comfort to a great multitude in this and in other lands.

In 1807 the Annual Register (British), contained the following—"It is difficult now to find a single spot on the vast continent of Europe which is not subject to the decrees of the French Emperor; every Sovereign is either of his creation, or dependent on his will. But Britain is still free. We abhor the idea of foreign interference; and we feel proud of the distinction of being the citizens of a country which appears to stand alone in defence of the rights of independent States." The times have changed considerably.

The Belfast Witness objects to the claim that Mr. Bryce, the new British ambassador to the United States, is a Scotsman, which claim, it says is based on the fact that he was born in Glasgow. Our contemporary says:—"Mr. Bryce is an Ulster man on both the father's and mother's side. Had his father removed from Belfast to Kaffirria would that have made Mr. Bryce a Kafir? We disagree with his Irish politics, but we highly respect his scholarship and personal character, and we shall continue to regard him as an honour to Ulster."

"There are some historical events," says the Watchman, "that disclose how God does a marvellous thing in our eyes. Who would have supposed a few years ago that a Protestant Ecumenical Sunday school Convention could be held in Papal Rome, as it is to be in May 1907? Who would have supposed that France, the eldest daughter of the Roman Catholic church would stand for national freedom from foreign ecclesiastical domination? Who would have supposed that China, proud of Confucian classics and conservative to the last degree, would adopt Western learning, the Sabbath and the Bible in public schools? We may learn on a new and greater plane that nothing is impossible in the providence of God under the power of Christian faith."

The Missionary Review gives the following summary of progress in China: "Since the Boxer uprising, when thousands were killed, there has been such a change of popular opinion that Christianity is becoming popular in many places. This is shown from the facts (1) that more have been baptized into the church in the last five years than in the first eighty of Protestant work in China; (2) that Christian colleges, north central, and south, are crowded with the sons of the upper classes; (3) that several educated Christians of good standing have been called into positions of influence under the Confucian government, and (4) that some of the greatest offices of the realm are coming into the hands of men who have been trained in Christian institutions."

The North Carolina Presbyterian Standard, has found a Democratic candidate for the Presidency of the United States in President Woodrow Wilson of Princeton University. His name he says has been and is being frequently mentioned in this connection. Our contemporary champions him in the following terms:—"Stranger things have happened in the fickle realm of politics. President Wilson is a practical knower of men; he is a man of high character, reared in the South, and represents the best political conservatism. Too, he has not sought public office. His years have been given to the pursuits of the scholar—he has studied our laws and our past and can be trusted to champion right, fairness and progress." Such a candidate would undoubtedly give strength to any party.

RECEIPTS FOR THE SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH.

The estimated requirements for the Schemes of the Church for the current year (1906-7) (Western Section) are the following:

	Rate per Communicant.
Home Missions	\$150,000 \$.75
Augmentation	45,000 .23
Foreign Missions	112,000 .56
French Evangelization, (including Pointe aux Trembles schools)	36,500 .18
Knox College	13,000 .06½
Queen's College	8,000 .04
Montreal College	5,000 .02½
Manitoba College (for Ont., Que. and Man. Provinces)	2,600 .01½
(For Man. and B. C. Synods)	9,100 .04½
Widows' & Orphans' Fund	16,000 .06
Aged and Infirm Ministers'	20,000 .10
Assembly Fund	8,000 .04
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	\$425,000 \$2.13

It is sincerely hoped that congregations in allocating their contributions to Schemes will keep the above estimates in view, and distribute proportionately. It is very desirable that the allocation be made as early as possible and notice sent to the office here in Toronto. The Comparative Statement shows that there is danger of the Home and Foreign Mission Committees having to face a serious deficit at the end of the financial year. The estimates for Home Missions for the current year are \$10,000 more than for 1905-6, and therefore the state of the Fund is in a much worse condition than appears from the figures merely.

The increased expenditure through expansion of the work, especially among the foreign population, calls for exceptional liberality this year, if our land is to be won and held for Christ.

The cheering news of revived interest in several sections of the Foreign Field should encourage the church to devise liberal things in aid of the Foreign Mission Committee's work.

The saloon is likely to be attacked from a new quarter, says the Cumberland Presbyterian. As a rule, physicians have not been prominent as opponents of the saloon evil and they by no means agree concerning the injury resulting from drink, except, of course, that all admit that excessive drinking is injurious physically and mentally, but medical men are beginning to see a reason of their own for opposition to the saloon. It lies in the fact that saloons as a rule are thoroughly unsanitary and become, therefore, agencies for the propagation of contagious diseases. Says a writer in the Medical Record: "It has been proved more or less conclusively that pulmonary tuberculosis is spread by the agency of public houses in Great Britain, and this is probably also the case to a lesser extent in regard to saloons in America. Although the saloons here are far cleaner and better ventilated than are those of Great Britain, there are many in which diseased and unwashed loafers spend a great part of their time. There are many other affections which may also be easily spread by means of the saloons. Among these are diphtheria and other infectious diseases, syphilis, and almost all forms of skin diseases." Other witnesses bear testimony to the truth of the statement here made and our contemporary has reason to hope that, aside altogether from the effects of the use of liquor as a beverage, the saloon will soon meet with violent opposition because it is a menace to public health.