

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

Lieutenant Shackleton, of the British Navy, and his party of Antarctic explorers, reached a point within one hundred and eleven miles of the South Pole, the furthest point south yet gained.

April 10 was the 81st birthday of General William Booth, founder and leader of the Salvation Army. The event was celebrated with appropriate ceremony in every institution under the Army's control.

The Dominion Government has disallowed the Natal Act, passed by the British Columbia Legislature last year, which had for its object the application of the educational test to all immigrants entering that province.

Father Romolo Murri, leader of the Catholic Democrats in France, who was elected to the Chamber of Deputies at the last general election, was excommunicated by the Pope for becoming a member of the French Parliament.

The government of the United States is to establish a bureau of labor by means of which men seeking employment will be directed where to look for it, and employers be informed where to hire labor to the best advantage. Canada might well follow this example.

King Haakon, of Norway, is a Christian Endeavorer, and has appointed Rev. H. B. Klaeboe, one of the leading ministers of the state church in Norway, to visit the cities, towns and villages of that country establishing Endeavor societies wherever they may have reasonable promise of support.

Even in Russia, with its autocratic government, supported largely by the liquor traffic, which is operated as a Government enterprise, there is opposition to the liquor traffic. On March 26th the Douma adopted the budget of the Colonization Department, with a resolution asking the Government to suspend the sale of liquor in all regions open to colonization.

China is about to take a census of the uncounted millions within her borders. The State Department has just received a copy of an imperial edict issued in accordance with the program for constitutional reform, directing an enumeration of individuals and families within the empire. The returns for the census for families must be completed by 1910 and for individuals by 1912. All Chinese living in foreign lands must be enumerated.

The Rev. John Kirkpatrick, a resident minister of Philadelphia, died at his home in that city on March 23, aged 70 years. He was born in Ireland, and was for a short time minister of Cooke's Church, Toronto. Twenty-three years ago he went to Philadelphia and became pastor of the Westminster church in that city. After a pastorate of ten years he was released from that charge and dismissed to the Presbytery of Boston, and for a number of years was a pastor in South Boston, Mass. He returned to Philadelphia about three years ago and had been preaching as opportunity offered in vacant pulpits, although still a member of the Boston Presbytery. He was unmarried, and no near relatives, it is said, survive him.

The Christian Intelligencer, the excellent journalistic representative of the Reformed (Dutch) Church in America, mourns the death of its editor, Rev. John B. Drury, D.D., which occurred on Sabbath, March 21, at the age of 76. He had been in editorial service for twenty years. He was a man of fine personal qualities, a loyal and efficient servant of the church and a scholarly, instructive writer.

Rev. W. Selbie, the new principal of Mansfield College, brings a charge against modern preaching that it is either intellectual and cold, or warm and unintelligent. It is often remarked that fervid evangelistic preachers put no thoughts or ideas into their sermons, while the men of thoughts and ideas do not preach for conversions. Surely both qualities can be united, in the same man and in the same sermon, as we see in the really great preachers.

On the list of the Macmillan Company for this week are "Greek Architecture," by Professor Allan Marquand; "The Story of the Great Lakes," by Professor Edward Channing and Miss Marion Loring; "Modern Thought and the Crisis in Belief," by Professor Robert M. Wenley; "Walt Whitman," by Professor George Rice Carpenter in the Englishmen of Letters Series; and the fourth volume of Bailey's "Cyclopaedia of Agriculture," which completes this exhaustive work on the farm and its problems.

The national council of Nonconformist Churches in England, discussed last week many subjects. A resolution in favor of the disestablishment of the Anglican church in Wales was passed unanimously. The case for that measure is much the same as for disestablishment in Ireland in 1869—that is, the great majority of the people in each country being outside the established Communion. As there are 200 Nonconformists in the House of Commons, the Welsh majority naturally look to the present government for relief in the matter.

The London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews attained its one hundredth birthday, and the event was celebrated two weeks ago by a series of eminently enthusiastic gatherings. Abundant evidence of the vitality of the society has been forthcoming, and it is clear that at no period of its existence was the organization in a stronger position than today. Founded in 1809, with one missionary in London, it now comprises 222 workers, in various parts of the world, and of these eighty-eight are themselves converts from Judaism, engaged daily in proclaiming to their brethren, "We have found the Messiah."

One of the ill uses of the daily press is the publication with striking headlines and florid language of sensational accounts of the doings of criminals, or those who have taken the first steps towards leading a criminal life. It is one of the dark blotches on the journalism of the United States that it gives space so largely and glaringly to the publication of offensive and immoral sensationalism. Surely that which promotes coarseness, sensuality, and a craving for low comedy and gross dramatic details in adults must have a debasing effect on juveniles. We appeal to the strong sense and manly spirit of Canadians to use every fair means to prevent our press from drifting in this direction. Let us keep our homes and firesides clean.

At a meeting of the Indian mission committee of the synods of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Rev. Dr. Hart, convener, in the chair, it was moved by Dr. Patrick, seconded by Dr. Farquharson, and agreed that the committee "desire to place on record its appreciation of the most valuable work done by the Hon. David Laird, in furthering, by his advice, sympathy and influence, the efforts of the committee to christianize and civilize the Indians."

The English Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and the Liquor Traffic has presented a report that is full of sudden information concerning the tremendous extent of poverty which prevails in the United Kingdom. One striking clause in the report reads as follows: "A great weight of evidence indicates drink as the most potent and universal factor in bringing about pauperism. Some witnesses also indicate gambling as a serious and growing cause; but gambling, though it wastes the resources of its victims, does not lead to such physical and moral degradation as drink."

A gentleman in Toronto, who writes to the editor of the Pioneer a letter referring to the effort being made to do away with club licenses, says: "I live close to a place in which there meets a club that has a license. I have been several times on the point of taking proceedings against them for the noise and disturbance they make until two, three, and four o'clock in the morning. They get pretty well filled up with liquor, and they become very boisterous and noisy, both while at the club and in leaving. I am sure you would have my hearty co-operation and help. My house is not a home, and never will be, while they have a bar license, as Sunday is a happy day with them also."

Statistics make dry reading, but the following is of interest to all who would mark progress in things religious. There are 1,644,510,000 people in the world; 534,940,000 are Christians; 175,290,000 are Mohammedans; 10,860,000 are Jews, and 823,420,000 are pagans. Of this latter number 300,000,000 are Confucians, 214,000,000 are Brahmans, and 121,000,000 Buddhists, with other bodies of lesser numbers. Approximately, then, we can reckon that out of every thousand of the earth's inhabitants 346 are Christian, 114 are Mohammedan, 7 are Israelite and 23 are pagan. In 1885, with a trifle smaller population, it was estimated that there were 10,000,000 less Christians in the world, 55,000,000 more Mohammedans and 3,000,000 less Jews.

The Sabbath, on one side, is a religious institution and the observance of it as such is a duty we owe to God. As a matter of course, it cannot in this respect be enforced by civil law, says the Christian Advocate. All religious duties are purely voluntary. No external authority can reach the affections and control the will. Outward conformity to established regulations may be demanded, but outward conformity is nothing in God's eyes unless it spring from the heart. On the other side, the Sabbath is a civil institution, created and protected by legislative enactments. The State requires all citizens, not primarily in the interests of religion, but in the interests of civilization and secular morality, to abstain from common business on that day; and the State has as much right to do this as to prohibit murder or theft.