

Dominion Presbyterian

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Notes and Comments

The United States Senate, by a vote of 29 to 20, refused to consider the Pettigrew resolution, expressing sympathy with the Boers.

If institutions and men alike would learn that it is more honorable to do small things well than great things poorly the world would be the blessed gainer.

When a man is filled with the persuasion that it is his logic that it to be feared rather than his length he should be freely accorded the consciousness of victory.

Rev. F. B. Meyer of Christ Church, London, is to be the president of the International Christian Endeavor Convention at the Alexander Palace London, from July 14-20.

At certain times it is well to remember Edmund Burke's caustic remark that the grasshoppers on the fence made far more noise than the British cattle reposing in dignity under the oak.

In the central hall of the House of Commons Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Liberal leader in the House, unveiled a statue of Mr. Gladstone, whom he entitled the "greatest Parliamentary figure of our time."

Rev. Charles M. Sheldon has offered to give \$1,000 to Topeka, Kan., toward the erection of a detention hospital in connection with the city jail, provided the city council appropriates a like sum for the same purpose.

Prof. Oncken, of Giessen, in a recent public lecture, states that the great Bismark's death-bed saying was the following: "Dear Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief, and receive me into thy heavenly kingdom."

The British and Foreign Bible Society has distributed 110,000 copies of the Testament, or the Gospel of St. John to the soldiers in South Africa \$847 worth in the Dutch language has been sent to the Boer prisoners.

It isn't always wise for a minister who is not in perfect sympathy with his congregation to preach every Sunday on being persecuted for righteousness' sake, or to identify his own enemies with the enemies of the Almighty, against which the woes and judgments of the Scriptures are pronounced.

The Rev. Dr. Maclaren, of Manchester, speaking recently of the problem of evangelizing the cities and larger towns, stated his belief that it can be most effectively done by establishing mission halls in which laymen may minister to the people.

The men who were prominent in the Ecumenical Conference says the United Presbyterian may have been of deeper piety than those we heard in the Pan-Presbyterian Council, which met in Washington last autumn but they did not impress us as men so decided in their doctrinal views as the Scotch and American divines of the Council.

Kipling's "Absent Minded Beggar" has produced for the British war fund \$195,000, or \$10,000 for every line of the poem. Who says that poetry has lost its influence?

More than one young man has had to learn to his sorrow that it was no more creditable to his intelligence, and vastly more hazardous to his happiness and usefulness to follow the erratic and skeptical than the level-headed and conservative.

It is for British statesmen in all parts of the world—Anglo-Saxon, Anglo-Celtic, Anglo-Canadians and Anglo-Australian, to gather strength for the day of trouble should it come. In union of hearts and of resources for defense is the hope for the future.

The eclipse of the sun, which occurs May 28, will be nearly total along a path on the southern Atlantic Coast. Many foreigners will come to the United States to see the eclipse, and scientific men from all parts of the civilized world will be represented. It is said that more people will be able to see this eclipse with a minimum amount of trouble than ever before since the invention of the telescope.

The Plague is spreading in Egypt. A total of fourteen deaths has been reported. There have been seven cases at Port Said, at the entrance to the Suez canal, four deaths at Alexandria, and a suspected case at Damietta. Cases are reported at a number of points on the Red Sea, and one is reported at Smyrna. The disease is happily showing a decline in India but is spreading at Hong Kong and in Australia.

Neither Lord Rosebury nor anyone else can explain the bitter enmity of the European nations against Great Britain. The British people alone open their ports freely to the trade of all nations. Yet the enmity continues. French dukes, princes, kings, queens, emperors and empresses in the day of adversities flee to England "girt by the inviolate sea," for safety and pity; and still the hatred and detraction continues.

The effect of education in lessening crime is illustrated in some English statistics recently published by the London Chronicle. In 1870 the number of scholars was 1,691,249, and the number of prisoners was 29,065; in 1899 the scholars had increased to 5,610,249 and the prisoners had decreased to 17,687. In 1870 one in 15 was in school, and one in 568 was in prison; in 1899 one in 6 was in school and one in 1,795 was in prison. These figures are telling arguments in favor of schools. The more schools, the fewer prisons.

Professor Dewar, of London, who was the first to liquefy hydrogen, has recently succeeded in producing hydrogen as a solid; that is, in freezing the liquid. In series of experiments before the Royal Institute, he showed how the gas can be solidified. By surrounding the tube containing liquid hydrogen with liquid air, to prevent the ingress of much heat, and then applying a powerful air pump, he produced evaporation sufficient to abstract enough heat from the hydrogen to freeze it. Professor Dewar says that the mere fact of its transformation from gas is interesting, because it is the elementary body possessing the lowest atomic weight.

Lord Rosebury has again sounded a clear note in favor of Imperial Federation—the consolidation of the Empire. Events are great teachers.

Mr. Goldwin Smith has recently been traveling and making observations in Italy. In a Toronto paper he says that he has seen many evidences that in that country the influence of the Roman Catholic Church is waning. He instances as an illustration the appearance of the pilgrims ascending the Scala Sancta on their knees. These sacred stairs are alleged to have been those in the house of Pontius Pilate, and over which our Lord walked. The present pilgrims, Mr. Smith declares, are only those of the poorest and most ignorant classes, and even these seem to be growing doubtful of this and other legends of the Church. This is Rome losing her hold in her very strongholds.

A very interesting gentleman who has had much to do with private sanitariums in and around New York said the other evening: "I can always tell when there are hard times in the financial and commercial world. How? Why, all the private sanitariums in this neighborhood and in the Adirondacks are almost depleted. The men and women who believe that they are seriously ill, and who pamper their predilections toward hypochondria, drop all their fads and fancies and get back into the world in order to make the fight to make both ends meet. Vast wealth and luxury fill our sanitariums, while hard times bring people to their senses and to the belief that they are not quite as sick as they believed themselves to be. Anybody can stand adversity, but very few can stand prosperity."—New York Sun.

Dr. Parkhurst in a recent sermon, used the following words, which will float about on the current as lightly as any other piece of driftwood: "When we Presbyterians convict a man of heresy we do not ask what the man is, nor whether what he believes is true, but what does the Confession of Faith say?" It is a calamity says the Herald and Presbytery for any man to be so reckless in the use of language. It is hard to have any sort of patience with one who speaks in so defamatory a way of the Church. Dr. Parkhurst might as well say: "When we charge a man with crime and corruption in New York we do not ask what he is or whether what he has done is a crime, but what we reformers think of him." We do not believe in a man befouling and misrepresenting the Presbyterian Church, which stands, if anything on earth does, for truth and honor.

The viceroy of India in a speech before the council, printed in the Bombay Guardian, says regarding the present famine: "We are now face to face with famine of water and food and cattle, which, in particular areas affected, is unprecedented in character and intensity." He also said, "I am afraid it is too much to expect that England can again come to our rescue, this time, as she did so splendidly in 1897, or that so far as can be at present be judged we can, anywhere outside of this country, expect more than passive sympathy with our misfortunes." His appeal to the country for self help and the local government for wise methods of relief is a sturdy one, but it is to be hoped that his fear that nothing but "passive sympathy" can be expected from outside will be dispelled by a large and active sympathy on the part of the American people, expressed in ship loads of grain to the famine stricken people.