

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Mrs. Donald Robertson died recently at Salt Springs, Antigonish, N.S., at the great age of 95 years.

Presbyteries both East and West are nominating Rev. Alex. Falconer, D.D., of Pietou, N.S., for the moderatorship of the next Presbyterian General Assembly, which meets at London, Ont., early in June.

The Rev. J. H. Shakespeare, one of the foremost preachers of the Baptist Church in England, has written a book which is said to prove conclusively that the early English Baptists were not immersionists. Mr. Shakespeare makes use of aliorist documents recently recovered. The book will be published by the National Free Church Council.

The church union fever has struck Korea and preliminary negotiations have been held. If the project is carried to a successful issue the union will include the Presbyterian missions from Canada and the United States and the Methodist Episcopal missions from the latter country. The negotiations were of the most friendly character and the feeling in favor of union in some shape is practically unanimous. The Canadian Presbyterian missionaries are all from the Maritime Provinces.

One of the most interesting and valuable papyrus fragments recently discovered in Egypt was secured by the University of Heidelberg; it contains the greater part of Zechariah and Malachi in the Septuagint text, and its date is approximately the 7th century. It stirs the imagination to think what new "finds" may still lie waiting for the spade of the excavator.

The old Hebrew word for consecration means to "fill the hands." Senex Smith, in the Herald and Presbyter, notes that in Exodus 28:41 there is found in the margin, in both versions, "Fill the hand" for consecrate. A priest must give up everything else, empty his hands, in order that they may be filled with the duties of his high calling. And this is the keynote of all Christian consecration. We can not play with toys and hold to our hearts the white dove—the Holy Spirit.

The advocates of a "dry" town are pointing with pride to Jamestown, Greene County, Ohio, which has had no saloons for the past four years, and is regarded as one of the driest of the dry towns. A financial report recently made by the Town Treasurer shows that the place is free from debt and has a balance in the treasury of \$2,500. Jamestown has proved that the saloon is not necessary to the financial prosperity of a town.

Daniel Webster was not a professing Christian, but he placed the highest value on the Bible. Concerning it, he said: "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering, but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity." Again he says, "I have read it through many times. I now make a practice of going through it once a year. It is a book of all others for lawyers and divines, and I pity the man who can not find in it a rich supply of thought and rules for conduct. From the time at my mother's feet or on my father's knee I first learned to lisn verses from the sacred writings, they have been my daily and vigilant contemplation. If there be anything in my style or thought to be commended, the credit is due to my kind parents for instilling into my mind an early love of the Scriptures."

Ever since 1877 the Presbyterian churches in Japan have been self-governing; the various missions, American and Scotch, of the Reformed faith, in that year combined to form "The Church of Christ in Japan." Nevertheless the resident missionaries have constituted an unofficial body of advisers, honored for their wisdom and beloved for their good works. But after discussing the matter for a year, the Synod of Japan has now resolved that no church receiving foreign aid shall constitute a member of that body after two years from date; that is, after October, 1907.

A Baptist paper in the United States is excited over the tendency in certain quarters of the Baptist Church to break away from the old practice of "close communion." The present flurry in its columns was occasioned by a Baptist clergyman holding a joint communion with a church of another denomination in his town, and his outspoken defense of his act in an article which in fairness it published. Even the Baptist clergymen who hold to their close communion will co-operate with other Christians, and join in general movements with them, exchanging pulpits on occasion, and yet that would deny their right to the table of the Lord.

The Herald and Presbyter of March 14 contains historical descriptions of the Presbyterian churches, and their pastors, of Indianapolis, Ind. In speaking of the pastor of the Tabernacle church the article says: "Rev. Neil McPherson came from Hamilton, Ontario, a little more than one year since, and in this time he has won his way into the hearts of his congregation. By his earnest preaching and his wise counsel he at once placed himself at the head of all the departments of church work. The congregation is united as seldom, if ever, before and the past has been one of the most successful years in its history."

With regard to recent anti-foreign riots in China, the London Presbyterian says the evidence is overwhelming that the anti-foreign riots frequently originate, as appears to have been undoubtedly the case at Nan-Chang, through the Roman Catholic missionaries' active interference in law-suits and other proceedings affecting their converts. This mistaken policy endangers all the churches, though the Protestant missions, that paper believes without exception, entirely prohibit such interference on the part of their agents. The Bishop of Durham, Eng., has published a letter in the London Times urging that the Roman Catholic Church fall into line with Protestants in this matter, so as to guard against such disturbances in China.

The following paragraph from the Canadian Churchman will be appreciated by the civil service of the Dominion: "It by no means follows that because a man is a civil servant he has received his appointment solely on account of political influence, or that he is a man of inferior ability and capacity, and, having proved himself unable to make his way in the world, has thus been provided with the means of livelihood at the expense of the public. There are men in the public service, in each of its varied departments, of ability, industry and experience, who would do credit to themselves in almost any calling in life. Such men are debarred from the opportunity of acquiring the fortunes which sometimes reward the energy and enterprise of their fellows in private life. Their services are of special value, and should receive adequate remuneration." Unfortunately, it sometimes happens that "adequate remuneration" does not always go to men "of ability, industry and experience." The grinding, hard work is often done by men with inadequate salaries.

English laymen are exerting themselves to secure a better observance of "Sunday rest and worship." It is high time something were done, for the Lord's Day is desecrated by every sort of amusement and travelling. There is a committee of Episcopalian clergy, headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, which held a conference with representative Evangelical Nonconformists. Sermons are to be preached on the subject on July 1st, and a conference representing all the churches is to meet in November.

Here is a suggestive comparison for the prohibition patent medicine people: Beer contains five per cent. of alcohol, claret wine eight per cent., champagne nine per cent., whiskey fifty per cent., and Hostetter's Stomach Bitters 44 1-3 per cent., Peruna 28 per cent., and Paine's Celery Compound 21 per cent. The United States Government has "absolutely prohibited" the sale of Peruna to the Indians, saving in its official order that "as a medicine something else can be substituted; as an intoxicant it has been found too tempting and effective."

We hear comparatively little of any systematic effort for the evangelization of the Jews, though we know that such efforts are continually being made. One organization, the London Society for Promoting Christianity Among the Jews, is operating in four continents, and has 49 centres and 212 missionary agents. Its income during the past year was \$207,000. The results for the year we have not seen, nor could any tabulation of converts show the real work that has been accomplished. The seed-growing that shall mature for a later harvest is as important as the harvest that is gathered. That fact dare not be lost sight of in any Christian work.

A London paper—not Presbyterian—says that one of the most striking preachers at the Free Church Council three weeks ago was Rev. Johnston Ross, of St. Columba's Presbyterian Church, Cambridge. Mr. Ross evinced that balance so characteristic of Presbyterians, for his subject was the "Goodness and Severity of God." A great deal of one-sided teaching is heard nowadays about the Fatherhood of God, as if a father never corrected his children; much half-truth about Divine benevolence as if justice was not also Divine. The world is full of severity as well as goodness, and this sort of sentimental pietism ignores the tragic side of human life and of sin with a result that is not good. Some of the ministers at the Nonconformist Council needed this lesson from the minister of St. Columba's.

It is rather remarkable that, notwithstanding the disturbed condition of affairs in Russia during the past year, the British and Foreign Bible Society reports a banner year in the circulation of Scriptures, over half a million copies being distributed in European Russia, besides a very large number in Siberia. The society's agent in Siberia writes from Ekaterinburg: "Our great need is more books. Our colporteurs in the East are selling more of the rouble edition of the Russ New Testament than they have ever done before. The stock has run out, and owing to strikes the forwarding of fresh supplies is somewhat erratic, though, thanks to the courtesy of the authorities, two large consignments have been despatched. The soldiers as they went east promised to buy, if spared, as they returned from the war. The bulk of them looked upon this as a solemn vow, and are buying Bibles and Testaments freely. We have never before sold so many in so short a period."