

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS

Note and Comment.

The growth of English as a world tongue continues. While at the beginning of the nineteenth century French was the dominant language of the world, English is to-day the language of 116,000,000 people. Russian is spoken by 85,000,000, German by 80,000,000 and French by 58,000,000.

When the motor man of the street car that crashed into the President's carriage the other day near Lenox, Mass., injuring Mr. Roosevelt and his companions and killing two men, was asked why he was running so rapidly, he is reported to have replied, "Because I had the right of way." This, says the United Presbyterian, is the excuse of the saloonkeeper; it explains many deaths, but it will not be accepted as sufficient.

The latest census returns show that illiteracy is on the increase in the United States. Of the male population over twenty-one years of age in the cities, six per cent., are reported illiterate; and in the rest of the country thirteen per cent. of the men of voting age are illiterate. These figures do not deal with the population of any of the newly acquired territory, as Hawaii, the Philippines, or even Alaska.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the millionaire, has a novel and, we should say, effective method of promoting temperance. In a letter to Dr. Cuyler, enclosing a generous donation to a temperance society, he says: "The best temperance speech I have delivered lately was my offer of 10 per cent. premium on their wages to all employees on my Scottish estate who will abstain from intoxicating liquor." It pays double to be a total abstainer under such circumstances.

Inasmuch as the French government compels the French language to be taught in the missionary schools of Madagascar, the Norwegian missionaries who establish some of the most important academies there have been greatly embarrassed in this work. In view of this fact the Lutheran church of France has just pledged itself to maintain the institution which the Norwegians founded and to supply the necessary teachers.

Canon Tristram has a page article in the Sunday School Times of Sept. 6 wherein he gathers "testimony from the animals to the authorship of Deuteronomy." He concludes that it seems impossible that the list of animals in Deut. xiv, "can have been compiled at any other period, or at any other place, than when and where it purports to have been written, just before the entrance into the land of promise, and on the east of Jordan."

Adding members to the church, making it a power in the community, depends as much on the people and their hearty co-operation as on the pastor. An angel from heaven could not "succeed," in that sense, with a congregation which "hires" its ministers to do its work, and waits to see what will happen. Faithfulness and self-forgetting service, coupled with consistent life and a

trust in the Spirit's aid, will bring success. It may be long till there is the "full corn in the ear," but the harvest we can leave to God.

"What was the secret of Mr. Moody's success?" has been often asked. Rev. G. Campbell Morgan, in a recent address to ministers at Northfield, said this to those who ask such questions: "If your question means that he whom God found and put forward and sent throughout the world to call thousands into the kingdom was a success, and that man there whose name has never been in the paper, but who for twenty five, thirty or forty years has been in one pastorate, feeding the flock, caring for them, training them, teaching them, that man is a failure, I want to say to you that you are liable to make a very great mistake. If God has given you, my dear brother, the gift of the pastor, and he has put you down over some away there in the wilderness, when presently you meet him, if you are faithful to your gift and your opportunity, your reward will be as great as the reward of the man who has been in the front of the public gaze."

The Missionary Record of the United Free Church of Scotland says: A curious and somewhat significant fact is brought out in the just published annual report of the Registrar-General. It is well known that by Roman Catholics marriage is regarded as a sacrament, so that among professors of that faith no union can be properly formed except through the instrumentality of a priest. If, then, the Papacy had increased sensibly in England during the last generation, the circumstance ought to have been made apparent in the larger number of marriages celebrated in connection with it. So far, however, has this increase been from taking place, that the proportion of Roman Catholic marriages to population—41 to the thousand—has continued for thirty years to be precisely the same. Of course, it may be said that greater carelessness now prevails; but this does not throw a more favorable light on the progress of Romanism. If it is growing numerically, it is weakening in earnestness and consistency.

Prof. W. P. Amalzik, of the Warsaw University, recently delivered a lecture at St. Petersburg relating to the discovery of his first skeleton in North Russia of an antediluvian race of giants, the *Pariosaurus*. The skeleton he unearthed measures nearly ten feet in length and is the largest fossil of this reptile that has ever been discovered. Hitherto the British Museum has possessed the largest specimen, found by Prof. Seeley in Cape Colony in 1880, and which measures over nine feet in length. Prof. Amalzik has been engaged in this quest for fossils for several months. He unearthed some thirty skeletons on the banks of the Northern Dwina, but they were in fragments, with the exception of this colossal specimen. The skeletons were found embedded firmly in a hard sand-stone. They will be deposited in the Paleontological Museum, which is shortly to be built at St. Petersburg.

What are we to be allowed to drink as a

beverage in addition to water and milk? Intoxicating liquors are the bane of health, happiness and prosperity. Tea is now claimed to be an injurious narcotic when drunk strong and too freely. And now insurance men are bringing coffee under the ban. Medical examiners for life-insurance societies have added the term "coffee heart" to their regular classification of the functional derangements of that organ, says the Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette. "Its effect is in shortening the long beat of the heart. Coffee toppers, they say, are plentiful, and are as much tied to their cups as the whiskey toper. The effect of the coffee upon the heart is more lasting, and consequently worse, than that of liquor." Clearly we shall be driven to eating and drinking the simplest and plainest foods and drinks if coffee as well as tea is to be placed in the category of things that had better be left alone. By the time people become addicted to hot water and milk, spiced with sugar, some hygienist will startle them with the proposition that great care must be exercised in the use of sugar.

Among the forms of worship giving has been accorded a high place in all the ages and in all religions. The Bible is full of commandments and exhortations urging this duty. "God loveth a cheerful giver." "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse," and "let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." How is giving worship? It is an expression of worship because it is a means of giving God so much of our life. Our money ordinarily has been earned through service. The farmer has turned his toil into money, the manufacturer his skill in making goods, the merchant his service in selling them, the mechanic his day's work, the lawyer his legal learning, the poet or painter his genius; and thus every worker coins his very blood into money, his money is so much crystallized life. In giving this money to God we are giving him our heart's blood and life. We thus declare to him and to the world that he is worthy of our service, the product of our toil and skill with muscle and mind, our most solid and costliest gifts.

Harper & Brothers have received an order for books to be sent to a bookseller in Dawson, Yukon Territory—the first one received—which presents some features of general interest. Dawson is not usually regarded as a reading centre, but the order from this Dawson bookseller would seem to indicate the needs of a community of studious yet electric taste. The list is long and strikingly varied in character, ranging from such works as Gibbons's "Rome" and Macaulay's "England" through Flammarion's "The Unknown" and Mill's System of Logic to the newest novels, such as Merriman's, "The Vultures" and Chambers's "The Maid-at-Arm". Of the thirty or forty authors represented on the list, the books of John Kendrick Bangs and Richard Harding Davis constitute the largest individual items. The order was accompanied by a request for haste, as "navigation will only be open a short time and only letter mail is carried over the ice."