

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents.

## Note and Comment.

Japan has 4,852 post offices, equal to one post office for each 9,700 people; Russia has only 6,029, or one for each 21,500 people.

Rev. John Young, for thirty-one years minister of Trinity United Free Church, Greenock, has resigned. He was ordained in 1862. A proposal is on foot to unite some of the churches in the West End of Greenock.

In a recent address before the Milwaukee Ministers' Association, Superintendent Hare, of the Wisconsin Anti-Saloon League, declared: "We can never have a great revival in Milwaukee while the city remains supremely under the control of the brewery interests, as it is today."

During some deep-water experiments at Barrow-in-Furness a submarine of new and enlarged type remained under water for three hours, eventually rising to the surface two miles away. Those on board the submarine could have stayed under water much longer.

The Torrey-Alexander mission in Albert Hall, London, closed on the 29th ult. The evangelist report that 5,500 persons of all classes and creeds announced their conversion during the services. Six Church of England Bishops and many Roman Catholic priests showed their interest in the campaign by attendance at the meetings. Brixton will be the next town visited.

The lives and work of three noted Johns have been brought into prominence quite recently. We have just got nicely over the John Wesley Bicentenary celebration, when the name and labors of John Huss are brought afresh to our notice through the laying of the foundation of a beautiful monument to his honor in the city of Prague. And now the four-hundredth anniversary of John Knox's birth is to be celebrated on the 21st of next month. How much poorer the world would have been without these three!

The Roman Catholic Church in Italy has formed a Bible Society of its own, called "The Pious Society of St. Jerome for the Dissemination of the Holy Gospels," and this society last year issued from the Vatican Press a cheap little Italian version of the four Gospels and the Acts, and circulated it widely among the people at 2d. per copy. More than half a million copies of this book have been published, and its use is being vigorously pushed, although a few priests are still prejudiced against it.

A gentleman recently found that in one room of a high school in Connecticut in which there were forty-eight pupils, nineteen girls and twenty boys were using cigarettes. The teacher said the scholarship of these was lowered at least ten per cent., and that they were untruthful, deceitful and untrustworthy. The testimony on every hand is that the cigarette users fail in study and are unfitted physically and mentally for school work.

In Korea if a man wants to marry a widow he does not need to have a ceremony, but simply pays so much to those with whom she lives, and takes her as he might take a beast of burden. The price at present is said to be quite high, ranging from \$1 to \$5, gold. The native Christians in Korea are taking aggressive steps to discourage this practice of buying widows in all localities where aggressive Christian work has been organized.

Siam's national vice is gambling. Every town and village has its official gambling house, licensed by the government. But the Christian missionaries are making an impression against it. They have been trying to show the King how inimical to the best interests of the country this gambling habit is. He has evidently been impressed, and it is hoped he may throw his influence strongly against the great evil. He favors an increase of import duties, so that the revenue now received from gambling licenses may not seem so necessary to the people.

Steam has by no means made sailing vessels obsolete. The total number of them in the world is still 65,934 as against only 30,561 steamers.

Toronto presbytery unanimously nominated Principal Falconer, of Halifax Presbyterian college, as professor of literature and exegesis at Knox college.

Fifteen millions of the Japanese war loan was subscribed in Montreal last week. It was the first time in the history of Canadian banking that Canada was given the opportunity of subscribing to a loan offered by a belligerent country.

An old and influential Japanese priest is said to have discussed in a temple lecture Christian work for women in Japan. "In Tokio," he said, "there are about 75 girls' schools. Of these about 15 are Christian, and only one is Buddhist. Mark well my prophecy that in forty years Japan will become Christian!" The men may have spoken as foreseeing calamity, but few who watch Japan can doubt his foresight.

Fifty years ago the United Presbyterian missionaries in Cairo were a lonely little group meeting together for prayer in English. On the 15th of November, 1904, that mission celebrated its semi-centennial with a meeting continued during three days, holding three sessions each. These nine sessions were in the Arabic language excepting two sessions held in English, the language of the minority of the Protestants of Egypt.

The Royal Commission to inquire into Romanistic practices in England is expected to report this year. The Church Association (the Protestant party) are alive to the fact that a general election may take place soon. Therefore they are preparing their plan of campaign to secure that sound Protestants, and only such, shall be elected to the new Parliament. The Belfast Witness rejoices to see any activity amongst Evangelical Episcopalians, it will all be needed. We are in for a stiff fight for a pure Gospel, it says.

Says the Christian Guardian:—The approach of the four-hundredth anniversary of John Knox's birthday might lead us all to consider, with great profit, what were the reformer's chief gifts and services to the world. Apart from his normal heroism, which has been been a marvellous stimulant to the world ever since, he was able to achieve some notable victories for the cause of civil and religious liberty, his thorough-going belief in a national system of education is bearing its good fruit even today, and his establishing a popular government within the church did more to give the church a hold upon the love and sympathies of the people than can, perhaps, ever be thoroughly understood or appreciated. In fact, John Knox has done so much for all the churches and for the world that Methodists can as well afford to celebrate the coming anniversary as Presbyterians.

Those who have never been in an Asiatic country cannot but have difficulty in understanding the real significance of many biblical statements and illustrations which are brought out clearly by what we see in China. For instance, the wall around Pekin is twenty-five miles long, forty feet high, forty-two feet thick at the top, and fifty feet thick at the bottom, with shoulders or buttments every hundred yards, which make it twice as thick. Such a wall would be difficult to blow down. The wall is straight from one corner of the city to the other, but around each gate is a horseshoe-shaped entrance which encloses about an acre, through which there are one, two, or three entrances. The acre enclosed is called the gate, and it was in such a place that the priest Eli sat waiting for the return of his sons. Over the gate is a tower which rises fifty or sixty feet above the wall, with similar tower on top of the horseshoe-shaped entrance, in which the guns and ammunition are kept. It was in such a tower that David watched for the runners and wept for Absalom (2 Sam. xviii. 27-33.)

A committee of Russian Ministers favor repealing all religious regulations and recommending the quashing of sentences of exile and imprisonment for religious views.

The Russian peasants' movement is assuming extraordinary proportions. The dwellers among the forests and the boatmen on the Volga are marching against the bourgeois class and the nobility, laying waste lands and carrying off cattle. In the southern provinces columns of 2,000 or 3,000 peasants, armed with axes, scythes, and pitchforks are marching through districts which hitherto have been calm.

A movement to check the growing disregard of the Lord's day is about being inaugurated in England. The leader of the movement is a high official of the King's household, which may be understood as indicating His Majesty's sympathy with it, probably that he is its real originator. The archbishops of Canterbury and York, the bishops and many clerical and lay leaders in the Anglican church are giving the crusade their active support. The principal offenders against the sanctity of the Sabbath are the society people known as "the smart set," who, not satisfied with six days of frivolous living, extend their amusements into the Lord's day, making it the day of their most flagrant worldly pleasures.

The Berlin correspondent of the Christian World writes that the war and the revolt have given Russia so much trouble that the authorities are giving some liberty of conscience. For some months past careful observers have been noticing a change which is worth attention. The Russian Evangelical Movement, which the "Christian World" was the first journal to notice prominently, finds itself freer. The lynx eyes of the police and clergy are directed to other matters, and the harassed and hemmed-in Evangelicals or Students have in consequence freer breathing space. This has been noticeably felt in the Southern and Western provinces. Letters have reached Berlin stating that Student preachers have begun an era of renewed activity, and are busy travelling and teaching in areas which have been absolutely closed to them for the last ten years. The police take no notice of them.

A New York judge recently sentenced Charles Crews, aged 25 years, to serve three months in the Kings County Penitentiary for enticing and getting a youth seventeen years of age to drink intoxicating liquor for the first time. Crews induced the boy to go into a saloon with him and by threats forced him to drink a glass of beer, which he had doctored with whiskey taken from his pocket. The mixed drink made the boy paralyzed drunk. Crews took him out of the saloon and left him on the roadside, where he was found at night by his employer and searching friends. A physician was summoned and worked over the boy fully an hour before he was brought to consciousness. When able to appear in court, the boy lodged his complaint with Justice Wakefield. The judge said the case was one of the most outrageous he ever called upon to consider, and added: "I wish I had the power to send the man to State's prison for a long term. Three months does not meet the requirement of the case."

The Bishop of Durham, Eng., in writing a note to the London Presbyterian approving of an article in that paper on "The Ministry of Conversion," refers to the revival work in England in the following terms: "In countless cases the pulpit has practically ceased to aim at awakening the conscience before a holy God, and bringing the will in wonder and trust, led by the Holy Spirit, to a holy Saviour. Surely we are being led by the wonderful object lesson of Wales back to that work again. The old message is proving new because eternal, and a new hope is dawning amid the countless perplexities of our poor Christendom. May the great circle of Presbyterian Church life be profoundly moved by such ministry, as I indeed pray that our Church may be."