

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA

Single Copies 5 Cents

## NOTE AND COMMENT

A new Mormon "church" is being opened in London. It is claimed that there are 10,000 members in Great Britain.

Brazil has a population of 14,000,000, one per cent of whom are Protestants. Nine missionary boards are operating in Brazil. The religious and moral condition of the Brazilians is deplorable.

The Pope has instructed the French episcopate to refuse to accept the clause in the Church devolution law providing for the creation of mutual aid societies for aged priests.

Rev. Charles M. Sheldon, speaking of prohibition in Topeka, Kan., says that the police force has been reduced from 84 to 50 in that city, and crime has greatly decreased.

The Municipal Council of Moscow has decided to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the birth of Count Leo Tolstoy by opening on September 10 a public library in this city and by giving the count's name to the school he attended in his youth.

The Methodist Protestant General Conference at Pittsburg adopted the report of the Committee on Church Union, recommending steps toward a consolidation of various Methodist branches and of the United Brethren, but excluding Congregationalists from the scheme.

Francis Schlatter, a 'divine healer,' arrested in Princeton, Ind., on a charge of practising medicine without a license, claims to be the 'Earl of Waterridge,' and is claiming the protection of the British Government. There is no earl of the name claimed.

President Fallieres, of France, was welcomed on his landing at Dover by the British channel fleet in review, and at the station in London was met by King Edward and other members of the British royal family. London gave the French President an enthusiastic reception.

The Bible is now translated in whole or in part into more than four hundred languages and dialects, and is thus in reach of three-fourths of the human race. The day of Pentecost is almost "fully come." It has taken Christians nineteen hundred years to learn and do their duty.

The new temperance law in Rhode Island limits license to one saloon for every 500 of the population, which will reduce the number of saloons in the State from 1,127 to 872. The new bill also prohibits saloons within 200 feet of schoolhouses, provides for their closing on Labor, Christmas and election days, and increases the fees for both wholesale and retail licenses.

"There is nothing in all the world," says David Starr Jordan, "so important as children, nothing so interesting. If you wish to go in for some philanthropy, if you ever wish to be of any real use to the world, do something for children. If you ever yearn to be truly wise, study children. We cannot all dress the sore, bandage the wounded, imprison the criminal, heal the sick and bury the dead; but there is always a chance that we can save a child."

A neat little quarterly, Presbyterian Work in Mexico, has been started with W. E. Vanderbilt, Editor. In the first number, it is stated that "more than three million cigarettes are smoked every day in Mexico City; an average of nearly eight for each man, woman and child in the City."

A meeting of ministers in Boston recently discussed the question why so few young men enter the ministry. Dr. O. P. Gifford stated that there are nearly 27,000 students of medicine and 14,300 students of law in the colleges, while only 7,392 students have taken up theology.

The Church of God is in need of fidelity more than aught else. With Jesus upon the cross and but one disciple faithful to the hour, the scene fails to inspire. That page of history has been rewritten a thousand times since. There are ten other disciples, but they are not present. They were yesterday when the air rained palms and quivered with song, but the night came and they sought shelter. Fidelity was absent.

We have no hesitation in saying that the prominence given in the daily press to notorious criminals has not the slightest deterrent effect on crime. It is quite true that the press depends on the public for support, and that the public at large is prone to sensation. This by no means excuses newspapers, that are taken in the most respectable homes in Canada, for containing long and prominent narratives of events in the lives of criminals even though the writers mildly deprecate the daring deeds they so graphically refer to. Such articles rank with the "Dime novels" that have started many a lad on the downward course. Their influence is distinctly evil.

Not a few Anglican clergyman are supporting the Licensing Bill now before the British House of Commons, among those is the Bishop of London, who at a large meeting in Albert Hall said: "Another reason why I feel it my duty to support the Government is that any Government that tries to remedy this evil takes its life in its hands." This sentence was received with long continued cheering. "If the Bill is wrecked," said the Bishop, "I see the Trade entrenched for ever in an impregnable position. I see the license become a freehold, and I see a yoke put on the manhood of the nation, which will never be taken away."

The progress of modern ideas among our Jewish emigrants has had a most significant illustration in the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York city, where the students have "struck," refusing to go to their recitations until they are permitted to pursue modern studies, at least outside of the Seminary. One of the students is quoted as saying: "We want to become rabbis of American Jewry and study secular subjects, so we can know what's going on. We can't do that if we don't study anything but the Talmud. We have to study here six hours a day, and after that some of us want to go to other schools and study history and economics; but the directors won't let us. They are not up-to-date. They don't know anything about running a place like this." We have seen nothing of the result of the strike, or of the reasons of those in authority for refusing the demands of the students, but no institution can long survive which ignores the needs of the living present.

A recent report says of the Baptist cause in an interesting part of British Columbia: Four years ago there was not one Baptist Church in Okanagan Valley, today there are seven; four months ago there was not a Baptist church building, today there are three occupied and three projected. This is not a bad record.

The new members of the church needs a kindly interest and care on the part of pastor and people. But new members should not regard themselves as guests and expect the best of entertainment continually. Nor should they feel aggrieved if after a time some duties are expected of them. In social circles some obligations are required of the guest. And surely it is right that when one ceases to be a guest and is received as a member of the church family, duties devolve that would not be expected of the guest. Now you are no longer guest but host to welcome others even as you were received. See to it that none can complain of your cordiality and conduct.

John Stuart Mill never wrote truer words than these: "After all, the worth of a state is in the long run the work of the individuals composing it." The careful observer cannot fail to be impressed by this conclusion of one of the most profound and philosophic observers and thinkers of the last century. We have striven time and again to place this truth before our readers in its bearing on the Church and on public life and affairs. It is a well-known fact that men of unscrupulous character now and then seek to obtain prominence in Church or State. By craft and effrontery and the unwittingness of the average man to oppose them, and so incur their enmity, they too often succeed in their attempts. Such men are a menace to society.

Lady Grey, in the "Fortnightly Review," gives an interesting account of what has been accomplished by the means of Woman's Suffrage in Australia. The work thus far has dealt with the things that touch women most closely, and the showing is wonderfully good. In New South Wales women have had the vote only since August, 1902, and in less than four years they have won reforms which the voteless women of Victoria have asked for for fifteen years, and are still asking for in vain. These reforms deal one and all with the purification of the home. This cannot be insisted upon too often and too earnestly. They deal with the protection of child life in more than one way: by the establishment of a children's court; by an Habitual Criminal Act; by the licensing of juvenile street vendors; by the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating drinks and indecent literature to the children; by the legitimization of children on the marriage of parents, thus giving them a fairer start in life, and remedying, as far as it lies in the power of the State to do so, the wrong done them by their parents; by the raising of the "age of consent" to seventeen years; and by other reforms which it would take too long to enumerate, but which include the limiting of the hours of child-labor, and an improvement in the conditions under which they work. "The home" is safely guarded, exalted and made more real in every way in which State interference can make such an improvement possible. And the improvement is even greater indirectly than it can be made by direct legislation, because of the loftiness of the ideals aimed at.