

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

Rev. James E. Newell, of Samoa, reports seven Endeavor societies in Ellis Island, three in Tokelau Islands, and one on the island of Atafu. Mr. Newell says that there are large societies on the Gilbert Islands.

The Christian Register, a Unitarian paper, enthusiastically applauds Union Seminary, New York. It speaks of the report that it no longer requires its professors to subscribe the Confession of Faith as "good news." Such approval will hurt rather than help the institution.

Rev. J. H. Morrison went to India in 1838. His children and grand and great grandchildren, and all the daughters-in-law and sons-in-law, have made up an aggregate of three hundred years of work in India, given by his family—a tribute, indeed, to the value of missionary children.

The Christian Observer pays the following tribute to the memory of the late Principal Caven of Toronto: "A prince in Israel has fallen, and many mourn his departure. He has ceased from his labors, but the fruitage of his life work abides in many faithful men now in the ranks of the ministry."

Miss Hankey, the authoress of the familiar old hymn, "Tell Me the Old, Old Story," still lives in London. The hymn was composed in 1866. It has recently been translated into Japanese, and an edition of 92,000 printed in Tokio and distributed among the wounded soldiers.

An English local preacher named Myhill, of Gatfield, Norfolk, has just celebrated his jubilee, having preached every Sunday for the last fifty years. He used invariably to walk to his appointments and never received a penny for his services until two years ago when he was given an allowance from the Aged Local Preachers' Fund. He is now eighty three years of age.

Dr. John McLaurin, of the India Baptist Mission, writing in the North West Baptist, tells of the great changes he has witnessed in the thirty-five years of his experience amongst the Telgus. He has seen Baptist Telugu Christians increase from 600 to 60,000 members, missionaries from three to one hundred and two, and stations from three to fifty-three.

The workmen of England are much more addicted to drink than the same class on this side of the Atlantic. Yet what John Burns, the labor member of Parliament, said in a recent lecture is not altogether inapplicable to the laboring population in some sections in this country. He denounced the public-house as the ante-chamber of the workhouse, the chapel-at-ease to the asylum, the recruiting station to the hospital, the rendezvous for the gambler and the gathering ground for the jail. "Drinking," he said, "was the chief cause of the workingman's difficulties."

A book which has run through twenty editions is counted among the most popular books. The Bible has an edition for every day in the year. In more than one hundred languages translations and revisions are now in progress. When it comes to popularity, as evidenced by demand, no other book is to be mentioned as in the same class with the Bible. It is the book of books.

A body of Christians called British Friends seems to be in advance of most other denominations in missionary zeal. They report a membership of twenty thousand, yet their yearly contribution for missionary purposes is \$150,000. They have eighty seven representatives in the foreign mission fields.

Lord Kelvin's installation as Chancellor of the University of Glasgow has been universally recognized as a fitting tribute to the old college's most distinguished son. Lord Kelvin is no orator, says the London Presbyterian, and his address on the occasion was characteristically simple and modest. His great intellect and wide influence are still, as they have ever been, on the side of faith. Perhaps no living man has rendered such service, on the whole, to the good cause as he.

Rev. Takema Ichemuri, of Koehi, Japan, died November 11 in the Presbyterian Hospital, New York, after a brief illness. He was a native of Northern Japan, converted in early life, and became an ordained Presbyterian minister. For some months he has been in the United States at the solicitation of Dr. Charles Cuthbert Hall as a student of Union Seminary, taking some special studies. He intended to return to Japan for work among his people, but has been cut off in his early life of promise.

The Christian Guardian congratulates its friends of the Anglican communion on the men chosen to fill the vacant dioceses of Huron and Caledonia. Bishop Williams, of Huron, succeeds one of the noblest and best of Canada's sons in the charge of that important diocese, and his record is such as to give promise that the saintly and eloquent Maurice Baldwin will have in him a worthy successor. Bishop Du Vernet's devotion, brotherliness, public spirit and courage are well known in Toronto and he will carry to his far-away diocese the good wishes and prayers of many outside his own communion that God may bless him and make him a rich blessing in the sphere of labor to which he has been appointed.

Over one of the doors of the Protestant Syrian College in Beyrout is a tablet bearing this inscription: "In this room the translation of the Bible into the Arabic language was begun in 1848 by Eli Smith, D.D. Prosecuted by him until his death, January, 1857, it was then taken up by Rev. C. A. Van Dyke, and completed by him August 23, 1864." To day in Syria and all Arabic speaking countries, they are reaping the results of the labors of these men, and by means of the printing presses they are print-

ing 1,000 Bibles a week; and the demand is so great that it will take two years to fill the present orders for forty-five thousand: 748 volumes have been printed, and 14,000 more have to be finished before the year closes; 3,000 pocket editions of the Psalms have been called for, and 6,000 more are underway. The printing presses of Syria, are, in God's providence, the most potent factor for the spread of the gospel, for it is putting the word into the hands of those who never come under the influence of its teaching, and the result can not be estimated in this life.

While many people in Great Britain, Canada and the United States are becoming enamored of the "Continental Sunday," it is worth noting that on the continent of Europe there is a growing desire to have the Sunday something approaching the old English Sunday. There is before the French Senate a Bill tending to secure every workman one day's rest in the week. The reform is supported by Sunday closing and kindred societies, and the Superior Council of Labour at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, discussed the question, the result being the adoption of several resolutions in favor of legislation. The Council agreed unanimously that workmen should have one day's rest in seven, and adopted a motion in favor of a law being promulgated. By twenty-five votes to fourteen an additional clause was voted, that the day should in all possible cases be Sunday.

A remarkable incident, illustrating the benefits which Christianity brings to a pagan country, is reported from Japan. In the old walled city of Tokio, comprising the mediaeval part of the town, about three thousand women were until recently held as slaves nominally for debt. An American missionary took an interest in the case of these women and after ascertaining the legal phases of the matter, brought one of them before a Japanese court as a precedent for the rest. The court decided in substance, that flesh and blood could not be held for debt and expressed the opinion that the women should be released. The reputed owners of the women, however, secured the support of the police and refused to allow the slaves to go free. Then the Salvation Army took a hand and in spite of threats and even of violence, stepped in, proclaimed the tidings of freedom to the women in the walled city and secured the release thus far of over one-third of their number. The St. Louis Christian Advocate says in this connection: "Japan owes a large debt of gratitude to the people of modern civilized countries, but in no case is the debt larger or the obligation greater than in this. It is but an illustration of what Christianity is doing for the pagan peoples of the earth, not only in Japan, but in many other countries. Wherever the religion of the cross is preached and understood, the condition of the prisoner is improved, the hard lot of the poor is made lighter, the bonds of the slave are loosed."