

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS

## Note and Comment.

The Presbyterian church in the United States mourns the loss of one of its missionaries in Korea, Rev. W. V. Johnson. Mr. Johnson and his wife left the United States in Dec., 1902. Mrs. Johnson died in Japan just after landing. After the burial of the body of his wife he proceeded to Korea. After entering upon his duties he was stricken with small-pox, and succumbed to the disease though vaccinated at 30 years of age.

Settlers from the United States, Great Britain and Continental Europe, are pouring into Canada by the thousand. They are represented as a very desirable class of immigrants, particularly those from the mother country and the neighbouring republic. Our people will give them a warm welcome. Are the people connected with the Christian churches of Canada prepared to meet and follow them up with the gospel, thus laying broad and deep the foundations of our young Canadian nationality?

In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland there are at the present time four members of the great Presbyterian family, viz., the Established Church of Scotland, the United Free Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian church in Ireland, and the Presbyterian Church of England. The essential oneness of the family is manifested by the simple fact that congregations in England may choose their ministers from any of the above churches; and on the other hand, a minister of the English branch of the church may be chosen to any Presbyterian pulpit in the Empire.

A judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia has created something of a sensation by laying before the grand jury of Halifax the evils of stock gambling as carried on in many broker's offices. The result was that the grand jury enquired into a number of cases and brought in bills of indictment in seven or eight. Some of those indicted are prominent and reputable men in the Nova Scotian capital. The indictments will come up for trial shortly in the Supreme Court. Other cities as well as Halifax seem to require investigation into the stock gambling business.

A story comes from India that a seat in that country have a "Promised Messiah." They have also what they call "the tomb of Jesus Christ." They are saying that after Jesus was taken down from the cross, he revived, and traveled eastward to the Indian Panjad, and there, at a good old age died and was buried. They show the tomb, and if you don't believe it, there is a whole lot of people who are ready to testify that it is all true. Then still more, they have "the true Messiah," of whom Jesus was only a forerunner, as Elias was the antecedent of John. They have it all figured out mathematically, and can tell you just how the prophecy and its fulfillment correspond with each other. These people, whoever they may be, feel that they must in some way or other meet the gospel of the Messiah of the Bible by a story which will help to arrest the disintegration

which is everywhere honeycombing Brahminism and Hinduism. The leaven of Christianity is slowly but steadily working among the people of India.

Since October, 1902, there have occurred in Canada 143 railway accidents, causing the loss of 183 lives. It is a terrible record. The loss of life was confined largely to railway employes. There can be no doubt that some classes of railway men, notably those connected with the running of trains, have often to work long hours, and it is possible that some of the accidents may be traced to overwork. But whatever the causes, it is surely high time that the government of Canada should inaugurate a drastic system of inspection and investigation with a view to, if possible, tracing all accidents to the real causes.

Speaking of the appalling growth of political bribery in some of the states of the American union, and with particular reference to Rhode Island, the United Presbyterian of Pittsburg says: "The State is in the hands of a few, and the people sell their votes as they sell their wheat or corn. The very foundations of popular government are sapped. A revival of the sense of right must be had, or our great institutions will go down in ruin." While the crime of political bribery has not reached such a pitch in Canada as is thus pictured of Rhode Island, we have enough of it in some places to warrant the Christian citizens of our country combining to throttle and crush the evil before it gets beyond control.

Vermont seems to have abandoned—temporarily only, it is hoped—the position it so long held as a staunch prohibition state. "The fault," says a Presbyterian journal has been in the failure to keep the subject of temperance before the people during all the years. There is a strong tendency to rely on legislation for the suppression of evils and wrongs. The only safety is in continual agitation, not so much of the legal phase of the question as of the subject of temperance itself. No law can be enforced without public sentiment. We need a revival of temperance, pure and simple." This will apply with great force to the temperance (or prohibition) situation in Canada.

The status of Christianity in Japan is thus described in a report of the church Missionary Society: "The Christian community has already given to Japan one Cabinet Minister, two judges of the Court of Cassation, two Speakers of the House of Commons (one elected twice), two or three assistant Cabinet Ministers, besides a number of chairmen of legislative committee, judges of the Appellate Courts, etc. In the present Parliament the Speaker and thirteen members are Christians; one of them was elected by a majority of five to one, to represent a strongly Buddhist district. In the navy the captains of the two largest men-of-war are Christians. Three of the great daily papers of Tokio are in the hands of Christians, and in several others Christians are at the head of the various editorial departments. The best charitable institutions are under Christian directors."

Bunyan's immortal book has been translated into the language of the Matabele by Mr. Carnegie, missionary to this tribe. The illustrations are a new departure. It has a purely local coloring, but, as the artist says: "The Puritan classic bears the necessary change of local coloring without loss of any kind." In this new dress we see Christian starting from a "kraal." The mud-nole of the "veldt" is the "slough of despond." Evangelist is a missionary. Apollyon appears as a creature with a wolf's head, owl's eyes and crocodile's scales and tail. A wardance festival takes the place of Vanity Fair. This will help the Matabele to understand the great book better than any Western pictures could have done, without taking away any of its great heart lessons that have been so beneficial to those of other lands and tongues.

The South is evidently outstripping the North in prohibitive liquor legislation. In some of the New England States prohibition is being abandoned and the cause of temperance is suffering retrogression, while in the South rapid strides are being made in overcoming the evils of the liquor traffic by legislation. On this subject Leslie's Weekly says: "Local option by counties has been progressing all through the South for many years until the larger parts of the States of Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana have been brought practically under prohibition. One may travel entirely across some of these States, it is said, without passing through a single saloon district. Even Texas, which, in years gone by, very unjustly gained the reputation of being loose and lawless, has been almost captured by the prohibitionists. Three-fourths of the State is now said to be under the local option law excluding all liquor."

Sir Oliver Mowat has passed away, old and full of days, enjoying the highest preference possible in his native province, entrenched in the confidence and affections of the people when he so long and so faithfully served in the sphere of human statesmanship. He was a Christian statesman and in his life work he left his impress for good in the records of our young nation. No scandal, political, social or moral, smirches his escutcheon. His strongest political opponent, no matter how strenuously he may have differed with him on the public and political issues that divide men, will refuse to bear testimony to his worth as a Canadian citizen, to his true greatness as a public man, and to the unswerving faithfulness and integrity which characterised him in his relations to the moral and religious life of his country. The example he set is worthy of imitation by the thoughtful and aspiring young men of Canada, as well as by her public men. There is something of the tragic in the closing days of his life, in that death came to him as the result of an accident, the pain of which was bravely and patiently borne. And yet it seems fitting that in the calm of a beautiful Sabbath morning his busy and well spent life on earth should exchange the things of time for the brightness and happiness of eternal day.