

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment

The late Mr. Moody was once waited upon by a newspaper reporter, who requested him to give him some points to enable him to write a sketch of his life. These are the "points" furnished by the great evangelist: "I was born in the flesh in 1827. I was born in the Spirit in 1856. That which is born of the flesh may die. That which was born of the spirit will live forever."

Rev. Mr. Brooks, of the Church Missionary Society, at Ping-Yin, in the Province of Shan-Tung, was captured in that vicinity and murdered on December 3 by members of a seditious society called "Boxers," who have been active lately, destroying many villages and killing native Christians. The Governor of the province had despatched a force of cavalry to the scene of the disturbance, but the soldiers arrived too late to save Mr. Brooks.

Professor Mechnikoff, the successor of Pasteur as the head of the Pasteur Institute, announces his "hope and belief" that he has discovered a serum which by its application to cellular life can lessen the waste that marks old age, and so prolong the period of human life. Professor Mechnikoff regrets the premature announcement made without his authority, but admits its virtual correctness, although he says he has had two years' experience with animals, and has yet to apply it to humans.

The Herald and Presbyterian says: There are some people who shake their heads very impressively when they talk of the sons of ministers turning out badly. The facts, however, are against them. Grace abides in families far more surely than worldly wealth. There are many illustrations of the fact. Dr. Norman McLeod, of Inverness, has been nominated moderator of the Church of Scotland. He is the fifth member of the family to occupy this place, and the third of the name Norman McLeod. And there are many other families as good as the McLeods, even though they may not be so celebrated.

The prospectus for 1901 of the Christian Endeavor World has just been received. This always bright and helpful paper promises that this year its contents will be even more interesting than formerly. Ian MacLaren is to contribute a series of seven articles; William O. Stoddard, a series of Lincoln Reminiscences; and Charles M. Sheldon, a serial story. These are only a few of the good things promised. The Christian Endeavor World is the international representative of the Christian Endeavor movement, and thus has a special interest for young men and women, for pastors and all Christian workers.

An Austrian savant has declared that the human brain contains a "name center". He said that it is the office of this cell to retain names. A striking case which would seem to confirm this theory recently occurred at Cleveland. A brakeman was shot by a conductor, and the former could not remember the names of persons or things, although he could perfectly well describe the functions of all articles exhibited to him. The surgeon probed for the bullet and found it in the exact spot necessary to affect the remembrance of names, according to the Austrian's theory. When the pressure on the brain had been relieved, the patient remembered names as well as he had done before his injury and told the name of his assailant.

Lord Cardigan, who led the Light Brigade at Balaclava, was a somewhat delicate man, and felt the cold acutely. So he had a sort of vest made of closely knitted Shetland wool, and wore it underneath his uniform to protect him from the rigours of the Crimean winter. Many among his brother officers were rather taken with the idea, and had similar ones sent out from home, but with the addition of sleeves. Thus came into being the Cardigan jacket, of which hundreds of thousands are still sold every winter.

Anecdotes and reminiscences of Mr. Moody are being published in the papers which attest at once the greatness and many-sidedness of the man. It is recalled, for instance, that Professor Edward A. Park, of Andover, once said to a gushing woman who expatiated upon the wonderful power of God displayed in his use of so untrained and ill-graced a man as Mr. Moody stirring Boston: "Well, madam, you will not suspect me of wishing to detract from the power of God, but Mr. Moody is a very remarkable man."

An announcement has been made, says Christian Work, by two French physicians, Sappelier and Thebaud, that they have, in collaboration with M. Broca, a chemist, discovered and experimented with a specific serum against alcoholism. The serum is extracted from the veins of a horse primarily rendered alcoholic by artificial means. It is stated that the serum confers on dipsomaniacs an unconquerable distaste for alcoholic drinks. They have been numerous alleged cures for drunkenness, but the difficulty with many of the remedies has been that the patient found the cure ineffectual as a permanency, while it has produced that condition that a return to the habit speedily resulted in death. The further inquiry into their serum will be awaited with interest. If it is anything like the success they believe it to be it will indeed be a boon to humanity. It looks very much, in the light of what is going on to-day, as if many of the distinguishing results that lie in the womb of the twentieth century will be the alleviation of misery and mitigation of disease in the human organism, with the prolongation of the average life period.

There is no question, says Christian work, that France has just emerged from the most dangerous plot that has threatened the existence of the republic. Ten years ago she was assailed by the movement ostensibly led by "the man on horseback," General Boulanger. But the Comte de Paris was behind that movement, and his hesitancy, coupled with General Boulanger's impetuosity, produced a friction and dissonance that made the task of the French Government in suppressing the movement comparatively easy. Now, however, with the revelations made before the Senate in the conspiracy trials, it appears that the plot was skillfully laid for the capture of the army and the proclamation of the monarchy under the Duc d'Orleans as Louis Philippe II. If the latest change of ministry did not kill the plot, at least the appointment of General De Gallifet made it impossible of being realized, for he, its most impartial officer, and deemed the ablest general, with a fine record, would take no steps to overthrow the existing government, however his personal sympathies seem rather to have been with government by a king or emperor. But his promptness of action dismayed the plotters, and now the republic seems to have taken a new lease of life to which every year seems to give added stability.

The Orillia Packet is of the opinion that lack of punctuality in beginning a meeting is as fruitful of bad results as the "long programme." Our contemporary refers to a recent concert he attended, advertised to commence at half-past seven and the chairman only took his place at ten minutes to nine. But even this was not the worst of it; "not a word of apology was offered to those who had been kept waiting for an hour and a half if not two hours." Yes. Lack of punctuality and the "long programme" have to answer for not a few poorly attended meetings.

There is a beautiful story told of Gustave Dore, the great painter. One day he was busy painting a representation of the face of Jesus Christ when a lady noiselessly stepped into the studio and stood admiring the picture. The eminent artist was just about to add the finishing touch to the canvas, when suddenly turning round he observed his visitor. "Ah! Madame, I did not know you were there," remarked the painter. The lady replied, "Oh! Monsieur Dore, you must love Him to be able to paint Him so!" "Love Him, Madame? I should think I do love Him! but if I loved him more I should paint him better!"

The Herald and Presbyterian has the following: Here are a few nails from the coffin in which missionary enterprise and church activity have not infrequently been carried to their place of burial. "One church is as good as another," which is equivalent to saying every other church is better than my own. "Charity should begin at home," which is equivalent to saying that charity should never wander from its initial point. "Let other people help themselves, as we did," which is equivalent to saying, after our grandfathers bought the church lots and our fathers built the present beautiful churches, we, their children, propose to have a period of rest in the enjoyment of something that cost us nothing.

The Presbyterian Banner says: It will be with some surprise, perhaps, but wholly without alarm that the Christian people of the United States will learn that Japanese Buddhists have established a mission in this country for the conversion of Christians or to the faith of Buddha. The "Shinshu" or "Sect of Truth" has missions already not only in China and Korea, the near neighbors of Japan, but in the Malay peninsula, Hawaii and elsewhere. Indeed the new missionaries, whose headquarters are at San Francisco, say that the "Honwanji authorities" are sending out active workers to all important parts of the world. One of them, Mr. Nishijima, has written to Dr. Paul Carus, editor of The Open Court, saying: "Our intention is to spread the gospel of Buddha among the Americans, who are sincere and earnest in their desire to pursue the truth, the highest truth, revealed first by the enlightened Lord Buddha Sakyanami some two thousand and five hundred years ago, in India. We are not one-sided, however; we know that there are many strong and some weak points on each side of Buddhism and Christianity. We believe that we Buddhists must learn from Christians, while, on the other hand, Christians can likewise learn from Buddhists." These representatives of Buddha will doubtless make some converts. In a country where the "esoteric Buddhism" of the Theosophical Society has more than a hundred organizations, there is no reason to suppose that the real thing will find no acceptance. Buddhism from its beginning has been a missionary religion, and now that the East and the West are rapidly drawing nearer in all kinds of intercourse, it is to be expected that the occidental nations will be subject to whatever influence the East can exert.