

Dominion Presbyterian

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS

Note and Comment

Frankfort-on-Main is said to be the richest city in Germany. The average annual income of its tax-paying population is £469.

Librarians of public libraries, says the "Literary World" have noticed recently a remarkable revival of interest in Bible study.

Probably 600,000 persons in Great Britain are without employment, and suffering from cold and hunger, as a result of the decrease in the demand for unskilled labor. Germany, Russia and Sweden have like situations.

The Presbyterian and Reformed Monthly, of which Professor B. B. Warfield, of the Seminary, Princeton, has been editor for thirteen years, is to be more closely identified with that famous seat of theological learning, and will be known in future as "The Princeton Theological Review."

A British jury a couple of weeks ago tried a labour union liable in substantial damages for injuries inflicted by a strike and boycott. They considered the use of the boycott, or other violent methods in a strike, to be criminal conspiracy, and therefore there can be no doubt that British labour unions are in the fullest sense responsible for their action.

When we think of the suffering that would have resulted from a bitterly cold November, or even October, in the Northern States, and how empty the coal bins were, and how slowly they have been filling up from the mines, it is difficult not to see the hand of Almighty Beneficence in the way the weather has been tempered to the household.

Mutsu Hiro, the Emperor of Japan, attaining his fiftieth birthday on Monday, the monarch, living his life, has effected a greater revolution during his lifetime than the empire over which he holds sway than Mutsu Hiro. Under his regime the old order has given place to the new, and martial law, and a democratic dawn has succeeded the old spent force of feudalism. The Mutsu Hiro is a wise and able ruler, a man of majesty and real power, yet simple in his habits and aims.

The "Christian World" quotes an interesting actuarial return of an eminent insurance expert, showing that ministers of religion live longer than men of other classes who insure—longer even than the insurance companies' healthy males' class of lives. The paper goes on to observe that this fact does not lead insurance companies to give ministers preferential rates—consequently policies on ministers' lives are eagerly sought in the insurance market. The same expert notes a curious fact about ministers' wives—that they continue to live longer than other widows. In fact, the longevity of ministers' wives is said to be a severe drain on insurance companies which number them among their annuitants.

A contributor to the Outlook, mentions the fact that the King and Queen always discuss their Christmas presents long beforehand, and have already chosen most of their gifts. When the King gives jewellery he is always particular to have things that are practical as well as smart. "His own watch," says the writer, "is the very flattest I have ever seen, and yet it is rather a large one."

In noticing the declination by Rev. John Kelman of the call to Knox College the "Weekly Leader" says: "Mr Kelman is doing splendid work among the Edinburgh students, and following on the lines of the late Professor Henry Drummond." It is a pleasure to think that Edinburgh will still retain his services in the pulpit. Later on he may be called to higher service in some theological chair.

By a curious coincidence three of the most influential positions which the English Congregational Church has to offer has become vacant at the same time—the City Temple pulpit, through the death of Dr. Parker; the secretaryship of the Union, through the resignation of the Rev. W. J. Woods; and the headship of the largest provincial theological college—Lancashire College, Manchester—through the retirement of Dr. Cabel Scott.

Professor M'Kendrick of Glasgow University, delivered a Murie Lecture in Aberdeen University. His subject was, "The Outlook of Science, or some aspects of the attitude of Modern Science to Religious Thought." True religion, he thought, could never suffer from the alleged assaults of science. The philosophic attitude of leading scientific thinkers was devout, and the outlook not a barren wilderness of material Atheism, but a land of promise energised by a divinely immanent and all inclusive Spirit.

Since Porto Rico came under the control of the United States, three years ago, active steps have been taken to bring the gospel to the people. The Northern Presbyterian Church has ten missionaries and helpers in the newly organised Presbytery of Porto Rico, seventeen stations with three organised churches, and others ready to be organised. It has four mission schools with nine earnest teachers, and a hospital with two physicians. They have access to the people everywhere, and a quick and grateful response.

Our contemporary, the Southern Presbyterian says: "The question often occurs, What becomes of the immense sums asked and lost in gambling? Why does the successful player die poor, as well as the unsuccessful player? Simply because no man regards the money obtained by gambling as he looked upon the wages of his toil. The first thing a successful gambler thinks of is to 'have a good time.' Success in gambling bets folly in spending. The loser loses; the winner squanders. The whole is gone. 'B'ud die 'broke.' Those not buried by the country are usually buried by 'B'ud die 'broke.' Those not buried by the country are usually buried by

Professor Laurie, the eminent holder of the Chair of Education in Edinburgh University, gave the opening address to the University Theological Society, his subject being—"Authority, and the will to believe." The result of an able treatment was the conclusion that belief is of the reason, but not of the will. Professor Laurie is recognised as one of the few great Scottish metaphysicians, and it was therefore noteworthy to find him criticising severely Dr. James' treatment of the subliminal consciousness in his recent Gifford lectures.

It was natural that the Rev. G. Campbell Morgan's name should be mentioned in connection with the vacant pulpit of the City Temple. Failing Mr. J. J. J. of Birmingham, Mr. Morgan, if not exactly a theologian, is at any rate a distinguished preacher, who would make an admirable successor to the great Dr. Parker. Since leaving New Court Chapel, in a northern suburb, Mr. Morgan has been head of the "Northfield Extension" of the American schools and colleges, established by the late D. L. Moody.

Zionism does not appeal to the reformed Jews, who do not believe in a personal Messiah and a return to the Holy Land; or to the prosperous Jews, who are well settled in their business and relations. But it does appeal to the poor Jews of Russia and Roumania and other countries in which they are persecuted and driven. These look to Palestine with hope. Over fifty thousand acres of land have been acquired by them, twenty villages have been established, and quite successful cultivation of the land in corn, grapes, fruit and vegetables has been attained. Important changes may come from the movement.

The Catholic orders which refused obedience to the law closing the unregistered schools in France says the United Presbyterian, do not find the comfortable home in Switzerland they expected. The Swiss constitution forbids the foundation of new convents or religious orders, or the re-establishment of those who have been suppressed, and, accordingly, the government has ordered the closing of the new houses opened by the incoming French Catholics. Religious orders that refuse obedience to wholesome civil law are not welcome anywhere.

It is said that Venezuela is at present almost hopelessly embarrassed financially, and that it has been in difficulties ever since its separation from the old Republic of Colombia. Of the external debt of 1888 there is outstanding £2,638,200, together with arrears of interest amounting to £326,370 (half of August 1898, and all subsequent coupons), and of the 5 per cent loan of 1896 there is £1,932,000, with interest arrears of £354,549 (44 per cent of December, 1898, and all subsequent coupons). Last year the expenditure largely exceeded the revenue, and the military burden was crushing in its weight.