

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment

The engines of a first class man-of-war cost about \$700,000.

Doctrinal decline and the decline of godliness go together. The backslider does not love God and his truth with all his heart.

On the basis of results of previous exhibitions at Paris, it is assumed that 52,589,281 people will pass through the turnstiles, and it is possible that the total number may reach 101,000,000.

Professor John Moore, of Boston, lately gave two lectures in Quebec in the hall of Morin college. The first was on Geology and Creation, and the second on Egypt. The papers speak of these lectures in high terms.

The congregation of the Brick Church, New York City, have decided to call Rev. Maltbie D. Babcock, D.D., of Baltimore, as successor to Dr. Henry Van Dyke. There is great unanimity among the members in regard to the choice.

Signs multiply on every hand that some of the churches in which doctrine has been minimised are at last coming to the conclusion that they can no more thrive without vitalising doctrines than sound moralists can prosper without precepts and prohibitions.

An infidel in Kansas City worth \$151,000 recently died. Not having any near relatives, he desired to give his fortune to some infidel charitable institution. He made inquiries but could find none, and was compelled to make it over to various Christian benevolences.

Hon. David Mills' pamphlet on the Alaskan boundary question has attracted widespread and eminent attention. It has called forth a long editorial from the London Times, while the Literary Digest devotes two pages to a summary of it. Mr. Mills' pamphlet has done more than anything else to bring Canada's case clearly before the public mind of the United States and Great Britain.

The Presbyterian of Philadelphia states that "The Queen of the Netherlands is the only Presbyterian monarch in the world, and the sole representative of the House of Orange, which rendered such valuable service to the Reformed churches." There have been a number of Evangelical Lutheran monarchs in Europe, but in consequence of intermarriages between different dynasties, Catholic princes have ruled some Protestant countries, as, for instance, Saxony, with all its Lutheran history, is ruled by a Catholic prince.

The suggestion, says the Cumberland Presbyterian, which appears to meet with considerable favor in some quarters, that Sunday School teachers should be paid for their services, is none too creditable to the age in which that suggestion was made. Whenever, if ever, Sunday School teaching becomes a secular and salaried business, and whenever, if ever, men and women teach in the Sunday School for so much per month and not for the love of souls, the day of doom will have dawned for this most effective institution in the church.

The plans of the Ecumenical Conference on Foreign Missions, to be held in New York city next spring, indicate a most successful conference. Rev. James Stewart, M. D., D. D., of Lovedale, South Africa, is expected to be present, and it is probable that Lord Overton and Lord Aberdeen will also attend.

The American Minister Straus writes from Constantinople to the state department that the Turkish government has put the screws upon intending Jewish colonists of Palestine, and requires that every such Jew entering at the port of Jaffa shall give money bonds that he will leave the country in thirty or ninety days.

For more than a week there has been little or no news from South Africa. Affairs there have been somewhat at a standstill, but the world is expecting something definite very soon. Ladysmith is still holding out and a relief body is on the way. The strict press censorship may have much to do with the scarcity of news.

The Chicago City Council has passed an ordinance which provides for the establishment of a board of examining engineers, who will pass upon the qualifications of all applicants for a license to run an elevator. Prior to this action it was shown that most elevator accidents were due to incompetency on the part of the operator.

The Siamese have shown their appreciation of the efforts of the Presbyterian missionaries, by contributing 15,000 ticals (\$9,000) for the purchase of a new site for the Christian High School in Bangkok. The king gave 1,600 ticals, and his example was followed by princes of the realm and nobles, who seem glad to aid in the enterprise.

A popular argument in favor of secular entertainment on the Lord's day is that the men are so busy that they have no time for pleasure during the week. Of course the husbands and brothers both need entertainment, but they have greater need of rest. They are better physically, mentally, and spiritually to be entirely separated from the business and pleasures of the world one day out of seven.

Great Salt Lake is receding on account of the excessive drain made upon it by irrigation enterprises. This lake is not fed by underground springs, but by the Jordan and other rivers, and when the water of these streams is intercepted for irrigation purposes the water supply of the Salt Lake is, of course, diminished, so that the evaporation which is constantly going on is not made up by a new supply. In time it looks as if the lake will be only a bed of dry salt.

In Knox church, Galt, recently, the hymn "O Day of Joy and Gladness" was announced and the choir attached to the work a tune which the congregation had seldom or never heard before. At the conclusion of the singing Rev. R. E. Knowles, the pastor, gave out another hymn, saying that he wanted the congregation to sing as well as the choir. This feeling that we want tunes we know is a very natural one, and yet many of the new tunes are beautiful. Would it not be a good plan if the choir would sing these unfamiliar airs as anthems once or twice before having the congregation attempt them? This plan has been adopted by many of our churches, and with good results.

It is reported from China that the Empress has issued a decree that Confucianism shall be the state religion, and must be taught in all the schools. If this should include foreign schools it will seriously affect missionary operations, as it is through schools established by them that missionaries do a good portion of their work.

A company has been formed for the purpose of bringing sea water to London from an intake at Lancing in Sussex, from whence the water is to be pumped to a level of nearly 500 feet at the top of Steyning Hill. It will then flow by gravitation through a main to Battersea and thence across the Thames to Cromwell Road, South Kensington, whence branches are to be laid for service in other districts.

"Nobody has said an unkind word about Dewey," said a Brooklyn man the other day; "but my wife made such a womanly criticism of him last summer that I have wished since that the admiral could enjoy it. We were down at Portsmouth, N. H. At the navy yard there were two gunboats which Dewey captured at Manila. Alongside was the Raleigh, of Dewey's fleet. She towered far above the little twin gunboats. The contrast was really startling. I rowed over the river to the neighborhood of the participants in the Manila Bay fight and rested on my oars between the contestants.

"Well, what are you thinking about?" I asked my wife, who had been quiet for several minutes. "I think that Dewey ought to be ashamed of himself," she replied."

Sir John William Dawson, for many years principal of McGill University and a scientist of world-wide repute, died at his residence in Montreal early Sunday morning. Sir William Dawson had been in poor physical health for several years, and had suffered several paralytic strokes which incapacitated him. He retained the full force of his intellectual faculties, but had been gradually failing. Sir Wm. Dawson, C.M.G., F.R.S., LL.D., D.C.L., was born in Pictou, N.S., on Oct. 31, 1820. He early showed an interest in natural history and geology, and took his degree at Edinburgh University. In 1855 he became principal of McGill University, in the interests of which he did an extensive work. In 1886 he was elected President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Sir Wm. Dawson was the author of a large number of works of scientific interest.

The figure of Cromwell, says John Morley, in The Century, has emerged from the floating mists of time in many varied semblances, from the blood stained and hypocritical usurper up to the transcendental hero and liberator of mankind. The contradictions of his career all come over again in the fluctuations of his fame. He put a king to death, but then he broke up Parliament after Parliament. He led the way in the violent suppression of bishops, he trampled on Scottish Presbytery, and set up a state system of his own; yet he is the idol of voluntary congregations and the free churches. He had little comprehension of that government by discussion which is now counted the secret of liberty; no man that ever lived was less of a pattern for working those constitutional charters which are the favorite guaranties of the public rights in our century; his rule was the rule of the sword; yet his name stands first, half warrior, half saint, in the calendar of English speaking democracy.