

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

The death is announced, at the age of 87, of General Sir Collingwood Dickson, G.C.B., V.C., a notable Scottish soldier. He was one of Lord Raglan's Staff in the Crimea, and won his V.C. at the siege of Sebastopol.

Mrs. John Campbell, widow of the late Professor Campbell, of Montreal Presbyterian college, has been appointed superintendent of the woman's residence of Toronto. No better appointment could have been made.

Douglas Castle has had the most interesting historical associations connected with it for many hundred years. It is, too, the scene of Sir Walter Scott's last novel, "Castle Dangerous," and the last spot in Scotland to which he made a pilgrimage.

Dr. W. F. King, chief astronomer of the Dominion has been appointed one of the three Canadian members of the international commission which is to report upon the water levels of the Great lakes as affected by the division of water at Niagara and other points for the development of electricity.

The Central American have a curious clause in their postal regulations. The posts that go by water or railway are required to carry the Bible without charge. It would be hard to imagine the Canadian Post Office Department aiding in this way the circulation of the Bible.

The Los Angeles Times of recent date says: "The great evangelistic campaign planned for the city in February, under the direction of Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman of New York, is quietly approaching the point of forceful and effective opening. It is designed to hold not less than six meetings simultaneously in different parts of the city, each under a force of workers." It is largely personal work that gathers in the sheaves.

In 1859, some distance southeast of Lake Nyassa, in Central Africa, Livingstone discovered Lake Shirwan, a body of water about thirty miles long and fifteen miles wide, which has now entirely disappeared with the exception of a few ponds in its bed. Lake Nyami, discovered by Livingstone at the same time, has also disappeared. The cause of the change appears to be a gradual drying up of bodies of water in Central Africa.

Some idea of the liberty which obtains under British rule, and of the blessings which flow from it, are conveyed in the statement made by Mr. Henniker Heaton, speaking at Canterbury recently, that there was not a single one of King Edward's 300,000,000 subjects in prison for treason or disloyalty, whereas in Germany hundreds were in prison for these reasons, thousands in Russia, and thousands exiled from France.

The Rev. D. C. Greene, D.D., of Tokio, of the American Board, and the oldest missionary in Japan, says there are now 1,000 Chinese students in Tokio under the auspices of the Chinese government, 1,000 more independent of the government, and military schools with Japanese instructors in several provinces of China. Japan's rice harvest this year is worth \$130,000,000 more than the average, and private enterprises like electric railways are going on without serious loss of vigor.

Rev. Dr. Fletcher, for more than 30 years pastor of MacNab street Presbyterian church has tendered his resignation to the Hamilton Presbytery. A special meeting of the congregation has been called to deal with the resignation. It is Dr. Fletcher's intention to retire from active work, after having been in the ministry for about half a century. He has occupied the highest offices in the gift of the Presbyterian Church. Last year he was a moderator of the General Assembly, and he is now clerk of the Hamilton Presbytery. Two years ago he announced to his congregation his intention of resigning at the end of 1904, so that his resignation did not come as a surprise to the members of his church.

The Herald and Presbyter calls attention to some of the grave dangers arising from the use of wood alcohol, either as an intoxicant or in flavoring essences and liniments. Our contemporary says: "It is estimated that something like four hundred cases have recently occurred in this country the U.S., of death or total blindness as the outcome of persons unsuspectingly using wood alcohol in one form or another. All these warnings are of such a character as to lead careful people to buy all such preparations from reliable dealers. The only good rule as to intoxicating liquor is to let it entirely alone."

Should Rev. Daniel R. Drummond, of St. Thomas, accept the invitation so heartily tendered him by St. Paul's church congregation, says the Hamilton Times and it is understood he will, he will be sure of a warm welcome in this city. His reputation as a preacher and a scholar has preceded him, and the hope is expressed in Presbyterian circles that he will come here. When Rev. Dr. Fletcher's successor is appointed the city will have three new clergymen to look after the spiritual welfare of the Presbyterians, including Rev. Mr. Wilson, of St. Andrew's—and it is the wish of the Times that their pastorates may be as pleasant and prosperous as were those of their predecessors.

Arthur J. Brown's book on China, "New Forces in Old China," gives some startling information on the rapidity with which China is adopting Western ideas. For instance, the civil service examinations are now based upon economics, railroadings, international law, etc., in place of the Confucian classics. There are now over one hundred newspapers printed in Chinese, while ten years ago there were none. The extent of the economic revolution now in progress, indicates that something like the bound that Japan took among the nations of the world

is to-day taking place in China only more slowly. The time is not far distant when rejuvenated China will have to be reckoned with by the great powers of the world. Great Britain, Canada and the United States would do well to maintain friendly relations with China, and earnestly promote her civilization and Christianization.

The United Presbyterian of Pittsburg, Pa. brings up a rather interesting point in connection with the Confession of Faith. That paper states that in the negotiations for the union of the Associate Reformed Churches of the United States, there was much discussion of the chapters of the Confessions of Faith relating to the Christian Liberty and the Civic Magistrate, but the answer to question 109 of the Larger Catechism was overlooked. The question is, "What are the sins forbidden in the second commandment?" The answer is, "The sins forbidden in the second commandment are, * * * tolerating a false religion," etc. The word, the United Presbyterian says, expresses the views of our fathers of the days when the Confession of Faith was written, but it does not express our present convictions, nor the convictions of those who formed the union in 1858. When the Associate Reformed Church was organized, this word was substituted by one forbidding the authorization, the sanction or support of a false religion. In the negotiations for union this was overlooked, and we continue to print as a part of our Church faith that it is a sin forbidden in the second commandment to "tolerate" a false religion. That is, that the religious freedom now enjoyed in the United States is forbidden by the divine law as embodied in the second commandment. It is not a vital matter, our contemporary says, it is important that we do not publish as a part of our standards a statement we do not believe. Should we not change the word?

In commenting upon the question, "Are we prepared for a revival?" the London Presbyterian explains that it does not refer merely to the Torrey—Alexander mission which is to open in London in February, but to revival conditions generally. The Presbyterian says: "The revival we look for may begin then, or before then; or it may not. That lies with God. We only know that at some time, His own time—and, we believe, not very distant—He will assuredly visit and confirm His inheritance. In Scotland during recent weeks, in a time of anxiety and uncertainty, a responsiveness and devotion have appeared in multitudes that point to greater blessings yet in store. In England, also, revival may arise, unexpectedly out of strife. Contending for great principles, so it be done of sheer loyalty to truth and in no spirit of bitterness, ought always to bring men and women nearer to Christ. There is no reviving save for those who confess the living kingship of the Saviour, and who are ready, with Rutherford and John Robinson, to welcome in humbleness and simplicity whatever truth God may cause to break forth for us from His Word." The question commented upon by our London contemporary is being asked by many Christian people in many parts of the Christian world.