

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

King Edward has conferred the Order of Knight Grand Cross of the Bath upon Marquis Ito, the Japanese statesman.

Emperor William will send Baron von Loen, a large land-owner in Silesia, to the United States to study agriculture and kindred subjects.

Horace Elisha Scudder, the author and litterateur, and at one time editor of the "Atlantic Monthly," died at his residence in Cambridge, Mass., recently in his 64th year.

Lord Roseberry has written a novel, but it is only expected to be published in the autumn. It is said that he has rewritten it three times, but is now putting the finishing touches to it.

John Philip Sousa, the band leader, is so puffed up over the success of his tour through Europe that, rumor has it, he is to write a book. He evidently regards that as an easier route to fame than by regular marches.

American fathers who find it expensive to maintain a son at college may console themselves with the thought that they are not the only ones. The King of Korea has a son at Roanoke College, Virginia, who has managed to accumulate debts of \$30,000 during his one year of college life.

It is gratifying to announce that the committee to arrange for the reception and entertainment of Prince Henry of Prussia has designedly so planned that the Prince of Prussia should not travel on any of the three Sundays he will spend in the United States.

Another denomination to complete its Twentieth Century Fund is the English Wesleyan Methodists. They proposed to raise for this object \$5,000,000, and it was finished by a collection on the last day of December of about \$325,000. This is a very creditable sum for this denomination to raise, and means a good deal for the various causes in which it is interested.

A number of persons who have been experimented with the X-rays, declare that they cause exceedingly violent palpitation of the heart, which after a short time, becomes intolerable. The uses of these rays are so many that it is important to know that the interposition of a metal plate is a very great advantage, and prevents much of the distress which the uninterrupted rays are likely to cause.

It is little wonder that German political economists are appalled at their alcohol problem. An article on drunkenness in the sixth volume of Dr. Konrad's "Cyclopedia of Political Economy" makes the statement that one-fourteenth of the men in gainful occupations are employed in the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, and that

one-fifteenth of the arable land is required to grow the materials for these drinks. The government of Wuerttemberg has statistics showing that 18.8 per cent of the average income of its inhabitants is spent upon liquor. Throughout Germany the average expenditure for a family of five for drink is \$62.50 annually.

America's most Historic document, the Declaration of Independence, is no more, according to *The New York Sun*. The ink has faded, and not a work except the title is visible without a strong microscope. Better ink must have been used in preparing the Constitution of the United States, for the text and the signatures of George Washington and others are as clear as if they had just been written.

There is a movement in Japan, says the *Herald and Presbyter*, to establish a daily religious paper in Japan. The purpose is to reach the multitudes who are abandoning heathen religions and drifting into infidelity. The paper will be printed in colloquial Japanese, and will discuss public questions from the standpoint of Christianity. The leading Christian men in Japan are interested, and \$15,000 have been contributed and pledged.

From the carefully prepared statistics of the *Allgemeine Zeitung* of Munich, there are 537,600,000 people classed as Christians, of which Protestants number 163,300,000; Roman Catholics 240,000,000. When we reflect that the Protestant Reformation began only four centuries ago and that Protestantism is outstripping Catholicism in annual growth, it follows that the latter can never be the menace that it has been to the welfare of Christendom.

Bishop Potter, of New York, made a plea not long ago for the toleration of the heathen religions in India and China and praised their good influence upon the natives. Where upon Bishop Robert E. Spencer, of the Presbyterian Board, wrote a reply to Bishop Potter and simply wiped him out. But then Bishop Suerer represents a church that gives a million dollars a year to foreign missions and Bishop Potter does not, and his conscience was doubtless hurting him.

There is a movement in the Southern States towards establishing industrial schools for the colored people, the object of which is to give them practical training for the work to which they are best adapted. The United Presbyterian of Pittsburg approves of the idea, provided it is not to be part of a policy intended to consign the negro forever to the position of a laborer. That paper holds that the negro has as much right to wear the academic cap as the white people; that they need religious teachers and leaders of thought just as much as the whites do; and that they are entitled to whatever place they can fill, just the same as the sons of the northern climes. This is undoubtedly correct; and it is worthy of note that the journals distinctly representing Presbyterianism are taking the lead in pleading the cause of the long down-trodden and oppressed sons of Ham.

The different Protestant churches carrying on missionary work in Italy are promoting a system of co-operation under an organization to be known as "The Evangelical Council of Italy." By and by we may expect to see organized in that country a national evangelical church. Protestantism has made for itself a sure standing in Italy; but it must not be forgotten that it was the sturdy Waldenses who, during many years of persecution, held the Gospel forth successfully against the powers of darkness and intolerance.

Sir Charles Elliott, writing in the *London Times*, furnishes interesting statistics as to the growth of Christianity in British India. Leaving out of the calculation the European element, which is pretty constant from year to year, he estimates that from 1891 to 1901, there is an increase of 550,000 native Christians—a rate of 20 per cent, or more than four times the natural increase of population. This growth of Christian discipleship he considers very encouraging in view of the great antiquity of Indian religions and the obdurate Conservatism of Orientals.

The movement to secure a religious building at the St. Louis world's fair in 1903 is taking on a very aggressive form. The pastors of St. Louis are foremost in the effort to persuade the directors of the fair to include an appropriation for such a building in their estimates. A structure 380 by 460 feet, to cost \$400,000, is proposed by the sponsors of the idea, though where the money is to come from is not yet made plain. Catholics are working with Protestants to convince the directorate of the desirability of such a feature, and an exhibit of relics from the Vatican is one of the possible attractions which are suggested as an inducement.

Evidently the Presbyterian Church of England is making solid progress, as is proved by the statistical returns just published. When the Synod was constituted in Liverpool in 1876 the churches and preaching stations numbered 271; there are now 335, with sittings for 166,391 persons. The members number 76,071. The denomination holds in trust property to the value of £2,000,000 with a small counterbalancing debt, not exceeding 5 per cent on this amount. Seventeen students were in training for the ministry in 1876, now there are 15; whilst there are 333 ordained ministers, including those engaged in professional work, and those who no longer are in active service. Congregational collections have increased from £137,086 to £228,099. The work in the Sunday School has not been neglected, and there are 480 teaching and 7,312 taught. Missionary statistics of this Church show that 33 missionaries are at work, including 13 medical men. The organized congregations in the foreign field number 95, to which must be added 109 preaching stations. There are 285 native pastors and evangelists, 84 theological students, whilst regular communicants number 7,157.