

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

Sir Sandford Fleming has given Queen's University a tenth interest in a coal mine near the Rocky Mountains, accompanying the gift with a check for \$800 as part of the first earnings. In Chancellor Fleming Queen's has a wise and generous friend.

C. H. Hyman, an able and popular member of Parliament, who has been sworn in a member of the cabinet without office is likely to be favored ere long with a portfolio. It seems a pity, remarks the Presbyterian Witness, that Mr. Charlton's state of health rendered it inexpedient for him to be called to public office.

The death has taken place in Aberdeenshire of the Rev. W. J. B. Moir, Principal of Blythswood Missionary Institute, South Africa, and for many years a colleague of the Rev. Dr. Stewart at Lovedale. Mr. Moir came home to Scotland to recruit his health, intending to return and resume his work at Blythswood, but he has died in his fifty eighth year.

Rev. Alfred Gandier, of St. James Square church, Toronto, has declined to be a candidate for the (soon to be) vacant professorship in the Presbyterian Theological College, Halifax. The other candidates nominated by Presbyteries are Rev. A. S. Morton, of Fairville, N. B., Rev. E. D. Miller, of Yarmouth, N. S., and Rev. Jas. W. Falconer, of Fort Massey, Halifax, N. S.

"Is Gaelic decaying in the Highlands?" The question was answered unhesitatingly in the affirmative by Sheriff Grant, of Rothiemurchus at the annual dinner of the Inverness Gaelic Society the other day. Gaelic, he admitted, was fast dying out in his district, the boys and girls at school scarcely knowing a word of their native tongue, a state of matters which the learned Sheriff deplored very much.

The Nazarenes, a new sect which has lately arisen in Austria south of the Carpathian Mountains, is spreading rapidly among the rural districts. It is said to number now 50,000 adherents. In their tenets and teaching they resemble the Stundists of Russia, the Primitive Methodists of England or our own earlier Friends. This is sufficient to show that it is a movement "Los von Rom," distinctively Protestant and non-hierarchical.

The Canadian Baptist has the following to say of Canada's new minister of railways: "He will be remembered by many of our readers as the accomplished gentleman who presided with dignity and grace over the interprovincial Baptist Convention which met in Winnipeg four years ago. If he brings to his new office such ability, courtesy and sound judgment, as he displayed in Winnipeg we venture to predict that the affairs of his Department will be conducted in a really statesmanlike manner." Sir Wilfrid Laurier made no mistake in calling Mr. Emmerson into the cabinet.

The London Presbyterian reports that a remarkable effect has already been produced in Glasgow by the new Licensing Act, which came into operation on January 1st. Its provisions give power to enforce the closing of certain clubs, and to stop the hawking of whiskey on the streets on Sunday morning. As a result, there were only eleven cases of drunkenness on a recent Monday at the police court from one district where the number used to be nearer a hundred. This seems to be a case in which prohibition does prohibit.

Dr. George F. Pentecost is authority for the statement that there is not a church-goer or Sabbath respecter among "the able men and statesmen" whom the United States government has placed in charge of the Philippine Islands; and this despite the fact that both McKinley and Roosevelt, who had the appointment of them, were or are decided Christian men. The Southwestern Presbyterian remarks: "This is unfortunate in every respect for us and for the new possessions and their unchristianized tribes."

If we are to be ruled by bosses, says the United Presbyterian, let it be the bossism of men who are moved by high ideals of civic virtue, men who shall rule in righteousness and the fear of God, with whom the love of justice and honest government, and not the love of plunder, shall be the ruling passion. The people are willing to be ruled by a boss of this kind. But the despicable political vampire must go if our cities are to rise to higher levels of civic righteousness. There should be no place in municipal affairs for men who are corrupt.

The Boers who have emigrated to South America do not seem to be prosperous. Those in Chili are complaining of their fate and thinking of a return to South Africa. In the Argentine Republic the discontent among the Boers is reported as daily becoming more pronounced. They were much disappointed at the Government's refusal to grant them certain lands on the banks of the Rio Chaco, and asked for unsettled camps lying southwest of Gealante Colony. Should they meet with another negative, they threaten to abandon their holdings and seek their fortune elsewhere, or return to the Orange and Transvaal.

The Presbyterians of Pictou and Truro, N. S., are to have celebrations this year of the ordination of two retired Presbyterian ministers—Rev. James Thompson, of Durham, Pictou, and Rev. James Maclean, of Great Village, Colchester. Mr. Thompson is a native of Colchester County and was ordained by the Presbytery of Truro, February 22, 1854, his first charge being Economy and Five Islands. Mr. Maclean a native of Pictou county, was ordained November 13, 1854 by the Presbytery of Pictou, his first charge being Mabou, C. B. All the ministers who took part in these ordinations have passed away. The latter was the first ordination ever held in Cape Breton by the Presbyterian church of Nova Scotia.

Dr. Briggs, professor of Union Seminary New York, who was the storm centre in a heresy trial a few years ago, which resulted in his secession from the Presbyterian church and casting in his lot with the Episcopalians, is making things lively for his new associates, and is threatened with another heresy trial. The charge against him now—which the Southwestern Presbyterian says is "far more serious to his Episcopal co-religionists than any theological vagary"—is that he thinks apostolic succession hangs by a very slender thread, that the Church of Rome has almost the only claim worth considering; that the pope was right in the main when he pronounced Anglican orders invalid from the Roman point of view, but that by the very decision he affirmed the validity of Presbyterian and Lutheran orders. If Dr. Briggs gets into a heresy trial on this issue it may be expected to create some interest in the ecclesiastical world.

Writing of the outlook for stocks in Wall Street, Henry Clews & Co., says: "The war, of course, temporarily overshadows all other influences. Japan's early victories encourage hopes of a short war as well as a check to Russian encroachments, which latter are certainly adverse to the progress of civilization. In view of general sympathy with the cause of Japan both at home and abroad Japanese victories are likely to have a stimulating effect upon the stock markets, while Russian success might on the contrary, exert depressing influences. Thus far none of the world's money markets have seriously felt the war, the worst effect falling upon Paris, where Russian bonds are largely held. It has been estimated that France holds not less than \$1,200,000,000 of Russian bonds; so that Russia's chances of increasing her borrowings from her best friend on good terms are not very brilliant. Later on Russia may make a better show of resistance, but the superior alertness of the Japanese has already won them important advantages."

It is worth noting that President Palma, of Cuba, in spite of the strong pressure brought to bear upon him, has been true to his convictions and vetoed the bill to legalize the lottery. In this the better element of the Cuban population is with him, and the island for the time at least is delivered from the demoralization which the bill would have involved. In his message to the Cuban congress he calls attention to the fact that the Cuban Lottery terminated when Spanish control of the island ceased, and that cock-fighting, bull-fighting and the lottery were suppressed by the military government of Cuba. If the new republic established these things, the President says it would be a different republic from that which the Cuban patriots fought for. Mr. Palma cites a long list of distinguished revolutionists and writers against the lottery, and asserts that those who governed the destinies of the State were responsible for the education of the people to higher instead of lower standards of morality and patriotism. All this is a vindication of the highest hopes which the friends of Cuba have held.