

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Queen Victoria is said to be looking in better health recently. The last time she appeared in public she had more color in her face, and lost that ashen look so noticeable last year.

A Tourist says that he has brought home a memorial from Sweden, which he has hung behind his desk as an hourly monitor. It is a wooden paper-rack, which carries the motto:—*En plats för kvar sak, kvar sak på sin plats*—which being interpreted, is, "A place for everything, and everything in its place!"

There will be 12 chicken-fattening stations in operation in the Dominion this year under Government auspices. Those in Ontario will be at Chatham, Whitby, and Lancaster. The stations operated by the Government last season at Carleton Place and Woodstock will this year be conducted by private enterprise.

The season at Northfield, Mass., has opened with a larger attendance at the great religious conferences than ever. The apprehension felt that the interest might decline after Mr. Moody's death was groundless. The attendance at the students' conference, just closed, was 600, from 132 different colleges, and the enthusiasm was great.

The Evangelical Free Churches of England are preparing for a simultaneous evangelistic campaign in 1901. Already some of the more prominent ministers have been assigned to the larger cities. Early in the year they will hold evangelistic meetings directed to the conversion of individuals, and the rousing of the country to the solemn claims of religious life.

When so much is being said about the probabilities of an early coal famine, it is comforting to learn that England has still 32,000,000 tons of coal unused and available. According to the past average rate of consumption, it will be over 500 years before this quantity is exhausted. The official returns for the last year showed a consumption of 157,000,000 tons in Great Britain and Ireland.

One can scarcely be surprised remarks the Morning Star, "the Turkish butcher is at it again" in Armenia—seeing what is going on in other parts of the world. From Bitlis, Asiatic Turkey, it was recently reported that 200 men, women, and children had been massacred in the Armenian village of Spaghank by troops and Kurds under Ali Pasha, the commandant of Bitlis. He is also said to have ordered the village to be burned.

A shop girl who knew General Hector A. MacDonald in the days when he was a draper's assistant in Inverness, draws his picture as follows:—"A braw loon, wi' en like glown' coal. And the great broad shoulders of 'im! He was mair like a smith than a draper. But, mind ye, there was naething surly about Hector, as we used to ca' him. He was terrible obleequin', aye offering to lift up or doon bundles for us lassies."

Count Lamsdorf, the new head of the Russian Foreign Office, is, a writer in the "Standard" says, a very prudent and moderate statesman. His love for France is as little excessive as his dislike for Germany. No policy of adventure is to be expected from so cautious a statesman, who is no friend of Pan-Slavism. His reputation in the Russian Diplomatic world is decidedly good, and his experience already extends over a period of thirty years.

Thirty years ago, the Catholic Church would not permit a copy of the Gospels to be circulated in Rome. In many places it still allows its priests to burn whatever copies of the Scriptures they may discover in the hands of its members. But to-day there is published at Naples, by a Catholic priest with the approval of his superiors an edition of the Gospel of Matthew to be cir-

culated at five cents a copy. Rev. Dr. Clark, of the Methodist mission in Rome, says that the publication of this book, with the approval of the Roman Catholic authorities, marks a new era in Italy. It is evident that the pope, being well aware that the Gospel is being circulated throughout the country, and is being read by many of the adherents of the Romish church, has permitted the printing of this book as a means of counteracting the influence of the Protestants.

The Black Mass is suggestive. It is a mass of black superstition. Yet it is celebrated by the Anglican Church, as for instance, at St. Michael's, London, recently, for the soul of a deceased brother. Says the London Christian Commonwealth: "After mass the celebrate left the chair, and at the sedilia changed his chasuble for a black cape with yellow cuffs, and then headed a procession with a crucifix; the tatarafale was sprinkled with holy water, and censed, while petitions were mumbled for the soul of the deceased."

Lord Roberts, the little man of seventy-two summers, is enshrined in the heart of every British soldier, and as he walked along the streets of Kronstad last Sunday morning with his Bible and hymn-book under his arm, like a little schoolboy, followed only by his tall Indian servant, one began to realize the secret of Britain's greatness and Britain's blessing in having such a man in command of her army. He worships in the Baptist chapel." So writes a correspondent who represents the Canadian Y. M.C.A. in South Africa.

Rev. W. J. McCaughan, formerly of St. Andrew's church, Toronto, who went to the Third Presbyterian Church, Chicago, has received a call to St. Enoch's Church, Belfast, his old home. Mr. McCaughan has not yet made any announcement as to whether he will accept or decline. But if he has not made for himself a better record in Chicago than in Toronto, there will be no deep feeling of regret expressed by the people of the Third Presbyterian Church, should he decide on returning to Ireland.

They have in Switzerland a "society for Protestant worship at summer resorts," which seeks to have a pastor at each "cure resort" for the season. Similar societies exist in Germany. Last year there were resort pastors in fourteen places in Switzerland, who held 169 Sabbath services, at which thirty-six German and twelve Swiss clergyman officiated. About 10,000 persons attended these services. An important part of the work of these pastors was in private, visiting the sick, conversing with inquirers, attending funerals, and comforting those in distress.

Field Marshall Count von Walderssee, appointed to command the allied forces in China, was born in 1832, entered the army in 1850, and served with distinction through the war with distinction through the war with Austria of 1866 and through the Franco-German war of 1870-71. In 1882 he became quartermaster-general, and acted as deputy chief of the general staff, on behalf of Field-Marshal von Moltke, on whose resignation he succeeded to the position of chief of the general staff. He has several times been mentioned for the chancellorship.

Some one has been saying that if ever a commander on the battlefield has a difficult and dangerous piece of work to do he prefers a Highland regiment to do it. That seems to be true, for the Gordons, at all events, have had rather more than their fair share of "hot work" lately. Has the oatmeal fare upon which those Highlanders have been reared anything to do with their physical prowess? If so, the day may come when they will be even as other degenerates, for a writer makes sad over the painful fact that "halesome parritch" is going out of fashion. No doubt oatmeal is a most valuable article of food. Dr. Franklin has said that the same amount of work may be obtained from oatmeal costing seven cents, as from butcher meat costing eighty-five cents.

With a great deal of force a writer in the London Academy says: "It is as unwise to tamper with a Bible which an age could not have produced, as it is to meddle with cathedrals which our age could not have built." The reception given the Revised Version by the general public shows that men and women in general believe that the value of old and well established language-forms in a sacred book, is too great to warrant any needless alteration. The Revised Version is regarded as valuable as a commentary on the Common Version, but it is not accepted as likely to supplant it.

One of the latest "Catholic" institutions in the Church of England is the "League of the Holy Mass." It is to have no organization, no officers or committee, no meetings. Those who join the league simply sign a pledge as follows—*Promise*—"I undertake to hear Mass at least . . . in every week, and to receive Holy Communion at least . . . in every month." "Holy days of obligation" and Sundays are not to be included as the faithful are bound to hear mass on those days." The distinction between "hearing Mass" and receiving the Communion is significant.

The South African war drags along in guerilla fashion. It is said that the majority of the Boers are very anxious for peace. In fact it seems that hostilities are largely kept up by the foreigners who have nothing to lose, not even character; such soldiers are a curse to any army. A majority of the Boers were "disgusted with Kruger." They have discovered that he is neither ironer nor patriotic. He led them into all of their troubles, which he does not propose to share with them. He has unbounded wealth, and can go to Holland and live in comfort, while his deluded countrymen suffer the penalty of his inordinate ambition.

In a very interesting report to the Department of Trade and Commerce, received from J. S. Larke, Canadian agent in Australia, that gentleman states that, in his opinion, two of the present fleets of the Canadian-Australian line must be replaced by larger and faster ships, if they are to compete with the new steamships hailing from San Francisco. "Mr. Larke points out that the trade with Canada has decreased, and trade with the United States has progressed. He regards the freight rates as the key to the whole position. Trade has increased with those colonies and countries where freight rates are favorable, but has decreased with those where the freight rates are high.

Miss MacBrown, "young and pretty," and daughter of John Crosby Brown, a member of the great New York banking firm of Brown Bros., well known in two continents, is living down in Henry street, New York, in the heart of the slum district. Miss Brown graduated from a fashionable school, traveled abroad and returned to New York ready, it appeared, to enter society. Instead she entered the training school for nurses at the Presbyterian hospital in New York. She graduated as a trained nurse in 1897. From the hospital she went straight in her nurse's dress to the Nurses' Settlement house at 205 Henry street. There she has made her home ever since.

Mr. W. C. Matthews, manager in Canada for R. G. Dun & Co., who has just returned from the West, says of business prospects in British Columbia, that trade for the time being seemed somewhat depressed owing to labor troubles and an over supply of goods on the market. There were brighter prospects, however, in the near future as the surplus goods were being rapidly consumed, and mining development was resuming its old time activity. In Manitoba the prospects were good, despite the light crop of the present year. The improvement in Winnipeg was the most marked and there was no reason to suppose that the light crop would materially affect trade conditions. The Territories were having the best crop and the best ranching prospects enjoyed for years.