

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Of the theological students at McMaster University, Toronto, all are Baptists but for—one Presbyterian and three Methodists.

More than four hundred Mohammedan missionaries have been sent out from the Mohammedan cloisters in North Africa during the past year, and one hundred of these are destined for East Africa.

A poor Irishman, who applied for a license to sell ardent spirits, being questioned as to his fitness for the trust, replied, "Ah! sure it is not much of a character a man needs to sell rum."

The party of religious liberty has triumphed in Bolivia. Freedom of public worship is now the constitutional right of all people of all denominations. Protestant missionary workers in Bolivia will be relieved from disabilities and embarrassments which have heretofore hampered.

A German doctor wrote to 150 eminent poets and authors, asking if they found alcohol an aid to their work. He received 115 replies, and all but seven of these were to the effect that alcohol in any shape or form was a hindrance, destroying concentration and playing havoc with mental labor.

The Tokio papers are extremely sore at the poor result shown by the Chinese students who have studied in Japan at the civil service examination which has just been held in Peking. It is stated that the students who received their education in England and America succeed remarkably well in the examination.

The North American Young Men's Christian Associations mark a remarkable showing of development during the first six years of the twentieth century. In this period the membership has increased to 415,000, a gain of 146,000. The property of the association, with \$5,000,000 given for new buildings in the past year, has risen from \$23,000,000 to \$42,000,000.

I believe that the greatest need of this world—the greatest need of the Church of Christ—is Bible teachers," is the assertion of Dr. R. A. Torrey. "I have been a home missionary, and I have been a foreign missionary. I have been a city missionary, and I have been a theological professor, and I think I know pretty well what the Church needs. I have been an evangelist—I almost forgot that. The greatest need is Bible teachers—teachers of the Bible; and in order to be Bible teachers we must be trained for that work. We need trained Bible teachers."

In a thesis before the faculty of the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, a candidate for the degree of doctor of philosophy, gave the following figures as to the cost of alcohol in "blood and treasure" to the people of Europe:—During the past thirty years there died in Europe, as the result of alcohol drinking, 7,500,000 people. This is more than died as the result of all the wars of the whole nineteenth century. In Denmark every seventh man who dies between the ages of thirty-five and fifty-five dies of alcoholism. The annual number of deaths from alcohol in Great Britain, Belgium, Holland, Russia, France, Germany, Scandinavia and Switzerland, he estimated at 200,000. Simply awful.

Dr. Crapsey, late of the U. S. Episcopal Church, is not an authority in theology, but does speak from positive experience as to liturgy and its effect on those who use it. He says: "No one but a minister can know how dangerous to his soul is the constant repetition of the acts of the ritual and the continual rehearsal of the liturgy. Through continual use the words become dulled and actions mechanical."

Some one says that superior manhood or womanhood is as important in a teacher as teaching ability. Indeed, this is the foundation of the highest type of teacher. The tones of the voice, neatness of dress, manner, matter and method, social tendencies, are mirrored to the children, and every night the child goes home more impressed with the silent influence of a teacher than with the contents of the book she studied.

The official organ of the Mormon Church at Salt Lake says that four million dollars spent by Christian people for missions in Utah has all been wasted, or "spent in vain." The Herald and Presbyter disposes of this boast by saying: "So the Chinese Boxers think that money spent for missions in China is wasted. So the Pope thinks of money spent for Protestant missions in Catholic countries, but Mormons, Boxers and the Pope are not competent witnesses in their own cases."

It is announced that Dr. Parkhurst's new Madison Square Presbyterian Church of New York City is to be open for a noon-day service and sermon each day of the week. The sermon is to be but fifteen minutes long, and the whole service is to be short, preceded by ten minutes of music on the organ. Dr. Parkhurst is to preach occasionally. The movement promises to be attractive and to do good, and is a suggestion which might possibly be practicable in a good many places where buildings, in the very centre of large populations, are kept closed from one Sabbath to another.

Spain is beginning to have troublous times in her conflict with the Papacy. Anti-clerical demonstrations are taking place in some of the provinces in support of the proposed Anti-Clerical Associations law, the enactment of which is hindered by grave differences of opinion among sections of the Liberals on the measure. Strange to say King Alfonso has taken a step which seems significant. Against the opposition of the court he has authorized the opening of a Protestant chapel in connection with the palace for the benefit of Princess Henry of Battenberg, mother of Queen Victoria, who is the King's guest pending the confinement of the Queen.

In 1893 an attempt was made to plant the Gospel in Peru by the Regions Beyond Mission. A foothold was secured in 1895 in Cuzco, the capital of the Inca Empire, and in spite of the most bitter and bigoted opposition, which forms a thrilling chapter of modern missions, this strategic centre has been held as is also the city of Arequipa, known as "the Rome of Peru." In each city there is a little church in which the simple evangel of redeeming love is proclaimed. An Inca Indian, named Carlos, is as far as is known, the first Christian convert to publicly proclaim his faith in Christ by baptism. He has become an evangelizing force

They are having a gracious revival in Central Africa. No one knows how it began, but a few lads from the training institution of the United Free Church of Scotland in Nyasaland were moved Christward, and they became the first-fruits of a great harvest. At last report there were well on to two hundred in the inquiry class, and the quiet village prayer-meeting had so grown that it had to be divided into four sections. The light is breaking even in many of the darkest places of the earth.

In an official note issued recently the Pope says: "The comparison between the Prussian cultural law of 1875 and that of the Clemenceau Cabinet, as made in the French Senate, was entirely wrong. The Prussian law, although hard and unjust toward the church, explicitly recognizes the Catholic hierarchy as the foundation of the church, while the fundamental principle of the church and state separation law and of M. Briand's bill is to ignore the hierarchy and to impede in an unjustified manner the ordinary practice of religion."

There is a probability that a great exposition may be held in 1900 without saloons hard by every entrance. The Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition, which is to be held in Seattle that year, has as its site grounds belonging to the University of Washington, not far from the University. The State law forbids a saloon within two miles of the University. Seattle has an opportunity now to give to the whole world a grand lesson in the interests of temperance. It is to be hoped that in no way will this law be contravened.

A Roman Catholic paper recently called the Young Men's Christian Association the principal citadel of Protestantism and warned members of the Roman Catholic faith that they are traitors and guilty of the unpardonable sin, if they have any part in such heretical doings. In response to this the Christian Standard pointed out that in a New York Y. M. C. A., which, by the way, is presenting to the homeless young men of the city a magnificent opportunity for self-development, there are many Catholic priests and a large number of Hebrews.

It was said at the State Department, recently, says the Central Presbyterian, that the United States government, through its Ambassador in London, had pledged to Great Britain its support in any steps taken by the British government toward ameliorating the condition of affairs in the Congo. This is the first time that any official announcement has been made, and sets at rest all question as to the stand the United States would take in case it became necessary for one or more powers signatory to the Berlin Treaty to intervene.

A skeptic questioned Emerson as to his belief in miracles. The philosopher smiled and pointed to a fly on the window-pane. Miracles! they are everywhere around us. William Jennings Bryan says that one may drop a brown seed into the black soil and up comes a green shoot. You let it grow and by and by you pull up its roots and you find it red. You cut the red root and find it has a white heart. Can any one tell how this comes about—how brown cast into black results in green and then in red and white? Yet you eat your radish without troubling your mind over miracles. Men are not distressed by miracles in the dining-room; they reserve them all for religion.