

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Edwin A. Abbey, R.A., will contribute all his illustrated work exclusively to Harper's Magazine during the year 1904. Mr. Abbey is now engaged in painting the official picture of the Coronation of Edward VII, for which he was especially commissioned by the King.

Chicago merchants have posted notices forbidding employees from playing the races or gambling in other ways. A man who has kept a book on various tracks and been on the inside of the business says the smaller race tracks would be forced out of existence were it not for the small investments of salesmen, clerks and mechanics. This movement of the Chicago merchants is significant.

Professor Mommsen, the venerable and veteran German historian, was during the South African war one of the bitterest assailants and traducers of England. He now writes in a strain of very generous appreciation of Englishmen, and hopes to see Germans and Englishmen going forward hand in hand. The fact seems to be that the Germans are somewhat anxious and disappointed over the recent treaty agreed upon between France and England.

Five great Indian Tribes have been for many years located in Indian Territory. They are in the main civilized and Christianized. They are ready for statehood, and are preparing to organize a new state to be named "Jefferson." One of the fundamental principles of the new state will be the Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic and the tavern. This is a rebuke to white men who have not the courage, the self-denial and the Christian principle required for such a step.

Some scientists take the view—Prof. Sayce among the number—that Sinai where the laws were given to Moses, was not in the region between the Suez and Akaba Seas, and other scholars have doubted the traditional route of the Israelites on their march to Canaan. A German scholar, Professor Schoufeld, has now started at the head of an exploring party, with a view to examine the whole desert and the mountain range in which Sinai has been supposed to stand. The result of the expedition will be awaited with interest.

The Presbyterian Witness, Halifax, is calling for information regarding the Rev. Angus Mackenzie and states the following facts: In 1849 a minister arrived at Toronto during the prevalence of Cholera. He had been seized immediately before landing and taken to the hospital where in two days he died. His name was Angus Mackenzie from Nova Scotia. His wife Margaret MacGregor, died in Nova Scotia, and one girl and three boys were left orphans in Toronto. The eldest child was 9 years of age. His daughter, now living in Chicago, has some recollection of her father living "near a coal miner," and of his having gone to preach at Halifax.

The British and Foreign Bible Society, which in a few months completes a century

of work, has issued no fewer than 180,000,000 copies of the Scriptures, which are now printed in nearly 400 different languages. The actual revision of the text of the recently completed Malagesi Bible, apart from printing cost the society over £3,000. The diversity of tongues to be found in one country is often a matter of surprise. Last year the society's agents sold the Scriptures in 53 languages in the Russian Empire, in 28 languages in Burma, in 30 in South Malaysia, and in 53 in the Egyptian agency. The total issue of Bibles, complete or in parts last year was nearly 6,000,000.

Lamartine was a poet first and a man of affairs afterward. He wrote once in his memorandum book a list of persons who were to be provided with situations. Previously, however, he had scribbled "David" on the page, and the head of the cabinet promoted the said David consul to Bremen. As David did not appear, the chief asked Lamartine who he was. "It was he who danced before the ark," was the poet's answer. "And I have gazetted him to Bremen!" Lamartine explained that he had intended David as a subject for meditation. The name was cancelled, and the *Moniteur* registered the change. But few knew that the consul appointed to Bremen was King David.

Mr. Edison, according to a writer in the current Harper's Weekly, claims to have solved the problem of generating electricity for common use at a trifling cost. The electrical generator which Mr. Edison has perfected, after years of toil, derives its power from a so-called fuel of marvellous potency. It will make it possible for the day laborer, as well as the millionaire, to light his home with electricity and have some sort of a motor vehicle. For a few cents a day light and power may be produced in sufficient quantities to supply the needs of any family, and the generator is so simple that any person of ordinary intelligence can act as engineer. Mr. Edison warns the public that there is yet much work to be done before the harvest he has sown can be reaped. But the invention is perfected, and the problem of cheap electrical generation is definitely solved.

The Christian Intelligencer remarks that the method so far proved to be the most successful in fighting the liquor traffic, is local option. It quotes the Herald and Presbyterian in support of this view as follows: "It is estimated that over one-third of the population of the United States is now living under prohibition either by State or by local option. It is claimed that over one-half of the country is "dry" territory. In the State of Ohio the question is being rapidly driven up to the great cities. During the past year 138 incorporated cities and villages in Ohio have voted out the saloons by the local option law, thereby closing more than 700 saloons. Nine county-seats in Ohio to-day are dry, and three whole counties have no saloons, while three-fourths of the unincorporated townships have driven out the saloons." If Premier Ross is going to give Ontario a drastic liquor license law, he could not do better than frame it on the local option principle. Such a measure will be a

long step towards provincial prohibition. Meantime each community should have the privilege of voting upon the question of license or no license.

The United Presbyterian notes as a proof of the advanced spirit and the spreading influence of Christianity in heathen countries, the adoption of Christian methods by the natives. Thus the Christian schools of Egypt led to great educational efforts by the Copts and Mohammedans. We see a notice of a Moslem prayer-book, published by "The Mohammedan Tract and Book Depot, Punjab." That journal thoughtfully and appropriately remarks: "When the waters are moved there is healing power present. The indirect influence of missions is very great, and even though it leads to greater activity by its enemies, this activity is itself an awakening of the mind, and a mind awakened to thought and effort will not be restricted by its original purpose. One sees some light when closing the shutters against it."

The Presbyterian Church of Brazil, which was formed by a consolidant of American missions, North and South, is the subject of a new attack by the Catholic clergy of Brazil on the ground that all Protestants are disguised political emissaries of the United States. Not long since a company of Americans had obtained a "concession" to gather and import rubber from Acre, the extreme north-west section of the valley of the Amazon, a little known district over which more than one South American state has claimed a doubtful sovereignty. But the Brazilians, alarmed at the number and character of the immigrants about to be introduced, ejected the Americans. The Catholic press of Rio Janeiro is now attempting to confuse the Presbyterian missionaries with this recently defeated colony in Acre. An inflammatory pamphlet of eight pages denounces all American Protestants as "enemies of the Latin race," warning Brazilians that the purpose of the Monroe doctrine is to reserve South America for North America occupancy, and to occupy by "conversion" what can not be gained by force.

In these days of church union it is hardly a matter of surprise to learn that a scheme has been projected looking to the unification of all Chinese Presbyterians and the organization of a general assembly. The Christian Observer points out that there are enough Presbyterians in China to justify the organization of a General Assembly. In connection with the Northern Presbyterian church there are two Synods, including ten Presbyterians and about twelve thousand four hundred communicants. Besides this, there are churches gathered by the missionaries from our own church, from the Presbyterian church in England, from the Church in Scotland, from the United Presbyterian Church, the Reformed Dutch Church, the Canadian Presbyterian Church, etc. The missionaries of the Presbyterian church of the United States in China, are heartily promoting the project. The Observer says the cause of Christ in China and the growth and development of Presbyterianism in that land would be promoted by union.