

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

The fools are not all dead yet! A new leader, who said he was called from the West by a vision, has arisen in Zion City and many of Dowie's erstwhile followers have flocked to his standard.

The British Weekly notes that in England the continued decrease year by year of the nation's consumption of beer and spirits is the most striking feature shown in the Inland Revenue returns.

The Rev. Dr. R. A. Torrey and Charles M. Alexander, who have been conducting revivals at East Northfield, Mass., will part company temporarily, Mr. Alexander taking his wife on a voyage to China, because of her ill health.

An anti-opium league has been formed in Hong Kong, China, to fight against the use of the drug. This movement is strengthening throughout China, and its supporters are hoping for an imperial edict forbidding government employees to use opium.

An effort is making to effect a union of the Baptist and Free Baptist churches in the United States. A national committee of Baptists has declared that the doctrinal shades of difference between the two denominations have disappeared, but the probabilities are that exceptions to this view will be quite numerous.

Tibet is going ahead. In spite of the fact that there is only one road in the whole territory, that lately built by the British, the Grand Lama has ordered an automobile. It will have to be carried from Darjeeling in sections by coolies over the frozen passes of the Himalayas and will be the first wheeled vehicle in that country.

The Bishop of Carlisle recently remarked that the most solemn fact about the Church of England today is that so small a proportion of the population and particularly of the men, attend its services. The world, he says, is too much in the Church and the Church too little in the world, and the only present choice is between reform and fresh development, or decay and certain ruin.

Eighty-three out of the eighty-seven provinces and territories of Russia are now under repressive jurisdiction, yet there is indication that the Terrorists and anti-Semites are planning renewed activity. Ratchovsky and his assistant Kommisharoff who organized Jewish massacres in Russia, have been reinstated in office by the Tsar, who has given other indications of favoring the murderous repressionists.

Rev. A. C. Dixon, D.D., a well known Baptist minister, has left a prominent Baptist church in Boston to accept the pastorate of the Moody church, Chicago. His doing so appears to have led to criticism of his course by his Baptist brethren. Dr. Dixon declares he continues to hold to the body of Baptist teaching, but as to immersion, while he believes it the "only baptism," he accords to other Christians the right to observe whatever form they may prefer for administering the rite. The implication is that he will use pouring, sprinkling, or immersion, as may be preferred by the candidate.

An unusual business venture is that carried on by the brother-in-law of the Czar, who, discovering that many people would pay largely for the privilege of having their children baptized with water from the Jordan River, has caused large quantities of it to be brought in hogsheads from Palestine to Darmstadt, where it is carefully bottled and sold at the rate of two dollars a bottle.

An interesting meeting was held recently in Westminster Cathedral, at the call of the Archbishop of Canterbury, to plan for the preservation and defense of Sunday as a day of rest and worship. Its greatest significance lay in the fact that it brought together representative Non-Conformists, Anglican Churchmen, and Roman Catholics for practical cooperation in Christian work. It is well worthy of note.

It is now finally stated that only 452 persons lost their lives as the result of the earthquake and fire of April 18 in San Francisco. Of the victims 266 were killed by falling walls; 177 burned by fire; and 7 were shot, and 2 died as the result of ptomaine poisoning due to eating emergency canned goods of impure quality. These figures are confirmed by the local health department in a formal report to the State Board of Health, says the New York Christian Advocate.

A Roman Catholic writer, says the Central Baptist, is proud to recall that in 1536 a bishop brought a printing press to the city of Mexico, and that this was the first one brought to the new world. That was a wise deed. It was full of promise. Great is the pity that our Mexican neighbors never seem to have realized much out of the promise. A printing press has a poor show in a country where a church dominates the government and the schools.

Dr. George Matheson was wont to be depressed when pastor of an obscure parish in the Highlands. He later came to regard those years as "the golden years" of his life, because of the opportunities they afforded him for culture of mind and soul. Probably there are many who are in similar depression and discouragement for similar reasons. If they make the best of their opportunities, they will estimate the years of obscurity and unappreciated effort as he did.

A remarkably rapid development is indicated in the report of the Rev. Eugene Bell, of the Southern Presbyterian Mission in Korea, concerning the work in his field, which embraces ten populous counties. While nine months before the work had comprised eleven groups of believers with a baptized membership of ninety-six, Mr. Bell was able to report at the recent annual meeting of the mission, twenty regular preaching stations, besides five or six not yet ready to report, with one hundred and sixty-three baptized believers. Work is established in all the counties but one, two of them having churches in almost every district. The believers have, during the year, built seven new churches at their own expense and bought nine dwellings to be used as churches while the congregations are growing. Eight out of ten native helpers, who assist the missionary, are supported by the native church, supplemented by what they save themselves. Five of the larger groups of believers have undertaken the support of their leaders.

Gipsy Smith, the English evangelist now in the United States to labor among Congregational churches for several months, was born in a Gipsy hut in England in 1868. He was converted in a Primitive Methodist church. He began his public work of evangelist under the auspices of Gen. Booth, of the Salvation Army. He has a fine physique, a most agreeable voice, and is a master of Anglo-Saxon speech. His personality and his methods are reported to be such as win confidence and produce abiding results.

The Philadelphia Westminster says: It has been left for the University of Syracuse to furnish an example for theological seminaries in all the denominations to follow. Tobacco-users and theatre-goers among the college students of Syracuse University must pay full tuition according to an edict issued by Chancellor James R. Day. There is no word that suggests that these two "T's" are wicked and baneful devices of Satan, but the Chancellor tersely says, "Young men who can afford to pay for needless luxuries and indulgences can afford to pay for their tuition." No more free scholarships for such young men.

A storm originating in the Gulf of Mexico swept over Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, Mobile, Ala., being the center of the hurricane-swept gulf coast. The loss of life in and around Mobile was estimated at 125 and the property loss at \$3,000,000. The business section was inundated, 5,000 houses and many public buildings were wrecked and many vessels were sunk. The Gulf States all suffered severely, and fruit and cotton crops were ruined in many sections. The coast was strewn with wreckage for ten miles east and west of Pensacola.

The Rev. Andrew Murray, D.D., of Wellington, South Africa, has just retired from the ministry, owing to age and failing health. Not only does this event mark the closing of a long and exceedingly fruitful ministry, but also a period in the history of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa. But while he has been, since 1862, a foremost figure in Dutch Reformed circles, founding for her colleges, seminaries and missionary institutes, he has become a leader of evangelical thought the world over. It is to be doubted if any writer on the Christian life of recent times has been more widely or more acceptably read by all denominations, his more than forty books having an enormous circulation in many tongues.

Prince George of Greece retires from his position as High Commissioner of Crete with the ardent good will of at least a portion of the people of that troublesome island. They tried by force to prevent his departure and only desisted when fired upon by the international troops. The war between Turkey and Greece in 1897 grew out of an attempt on the part of the Christians in Crete to throw off the Turkish yoke and unite the island to Greece. The great powers would not permit this, but made Crete autonomous, but nominally subject still to Turkey. In 1898 Prince George was made High Commissioner of the Powers in Crete. Throughout his administration there have been repeated attempts to become a part of the kingdom of Greece, and now his retirement seems to his followers the loss of all hope.