

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

A service was recently held in Monmouthshire, England, in which the pastor and visiting clergyman were blind, as were the organist and his ten choristers and the entire congregation.

A bill is to be introduced into the British Commons calling for steps to reduce the tuberculosis death rate in Ireland. It will include compulsory reporting of cases, establishment of sanatoria, and the inspection of meat and milk.

W. J. Bryan, the famous editor and democratic politician who was candidate for President of the United States, has come out unhesitatingly as an advocate of temperance legislation, and is using his high abilities and wide influence in making war against the liquor traffic.

The Moravian Kaffir Mission in Southeast Africa is reported as being "in a condition of healthy development, not only as regards numbers, but in particular with respect to progress in the direction of complete self-support. A theological seminary has been established to prepare the native teachers to become well qualified as evangelists and pastors."

In view of the coldness often spoken of in congregations, says the Presbyterian Standard, it is in order to bear in mind that the fact is a challenge to the pastor to make a bugle call to every member of them "to get to work at once." There is no apathy where all are doing something. Every man has a work to do. The sure remedy for coldness is obedience to the solemn summons, "get busy," by everybody.

There are no half-way measures in China. One prefect ordered the farmers to destroy their poppy crop. They refused. He warned them, but they persisted in their refusal. Then he sent some troops into the neighborhood, and they struck off the heads of those who had dared to disobey. We imagine that "blind pigs" would not thrive under such a prefect. He might make a first-class man for New Ontario!

Dr. W. J. Dawson, in a Vancouver address, describing a certain class of church-going people, referred to them as "the sermon-saturated pagans of the pew." No doubt the description in an accurate one as applied to a certain very limited class, and it gives a hint of danger that besets a very much larger class. It is possible to be a "Christian pagan," with a knowledge of Christianity and a life largely unaffected by that knowledge.

Madagascar was at one time a flourishing mission field. English missionaries have labored there for more than half a century, and the result was a large and prosperous Protestant population. The French Government, some years ago, under an empty pretext, seized the island, deposed the then existing government, and appointed corrupt men who were enemies of the Protestant faith, to office. The result was that the churches were sorely oppressed, the people persecuted and the work disorganized and partly abandoned. The present administration in Great Britain, however, has given its moral support to the London Missionary Society, and the effect has been the removal of the hostile governor of the island, and the appointment of a man whose past record justifies the hope of a reputable administration of public affairs.

The drop of 40c a barrel in the price of flour is again occasioning talk of the bread question. Some Toronto bakers are said to be furnishing customers at 4c a loaf, stipulating that they are to "keep it quiet." The careful housekeeper would like to see a reduction in price everywhere.

A sympathetic echo will be awakened in the minds of many of the Emperor William's subjects by the sharp condemnation which his Majesty is reported to have pronounced on the bibulous habits of German students. Among young men at the universities of this country, says the Berlin correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, the excessive drinking of beer is not regarded merely as a pardonable indulgence but as a positive virtue. Many of the students' clubs or "corps," as they are called, exist for no other purpose than to encourage the consumption of malt liquor.

It was unfortunate to be a freshman in the examinations at Manitoba University this year. Out of 134 students who wrote no less than 34 failed entirely, 58 failed in part, and only 42 passed with a clean sheet. The second and third years also suffered at the hands of the examiners, and there will be a great crop of "supplementals" this fall. Some say the examination standard was too high. No doubt some 92 freshmen will be of that opinion. This is only another illustration of the glaring defects of our present system of judging men by the examination test.

Rev. Dr. McQueen, of Edmonton, appears to be a favorite with young people about to marry. Here is his record of marriages for the month of May, according to report in a local paper:—May 17th, James R. Wilson to Miss Jane Ann McKenzie, of Dundee, Scotland; May 18th, Alex. J. Nicholls to Miss Catherine Kilpatrick, of Edmonton; May 18th, Thomas Bisset, of Lachee, Scotland, to Miss Robina Laing, of Bredin, Scotland; May 19, Charles H. Macleod, of Lawton, to Miss Mary C. Mالدieder, of Paris. The following marriages occurred at the residences of the brides' parents: May 24th, Adam E. Maguire of Camrose, to Miss Ida Kelly, of Ray; May 25th, John Gillespie, to Miss Mary T. Harris, both of Edmonton. During the month of June he will doubtless be called upon by an increasing number of couples eager to enter the bonds of matrimony.

"Whatever may happen, it is useless for a prisoner to complain of ill-usage, or indeed of anything. Whatever lie a warder may proffer is accepted as truth. Whatever truth a prisoner may proffer is held a lie. Prisoners brought from jail to a court of laws witnesses not infrequently are the only persons in a case whose evidence is true. Yet such evidence, though impregnable and unchallengeable on its merits, is by a legal fiction 'tainted' and false." This is a startling statement; it may be exaggerated. It certainly provokes serious thought in the minds of those interested in prison reform. The words express the convictions of one who has been an inmate of English and Australian prisons, and form part of a contribution under the above heading to the April number of the "Hibbert Journal." The writer of the article holds that:—"Imprisonment is slavery;" is a school for crime; for moral degradation; and is wholly evil in its effects. Whether one agrees or disagrees with all the writer's conclusions, it must be admitted that he speaks from experience, and his views are worthy of serious consideration by those who wish to "do justly and love mercy."

Those who know and have the courage to declare their knowledge, declare that polygamy is still encouraged and practiced by the Mormons. The Salt Lake Tribune tells of the prevalence of the crime in Utah. In the Mormon colony in Mexico plural marriages are often celebrated. The paper named publishes a list of a hundred men who have plural wives. The list includes "bishops" and "elders." Mormonism has assumed an outward appearance of conformity to the law but in secret there is indulgence in the old practices.

The Federation of Licensed Victuallers of Quebec Province held its annual meeting recently in Quebec City, with President L. A. Wilson in the chair, and a large attendance of delegates from different parts of the province. A number of resolutions advocating certain amendments to the license law were presented and adopted. Among those was one asking the government to decide the hours of opening and closing of bars, instead of this privilege being in the hands of municipal authorities. Another resolution was in favor of asking the government to appoint a commission in connection with license, while a third favored the licensing of bartenders.

It is probable that many will want to attend the celebrated Passion Play at Oberammergau this summer. The following information will therefore be of interest. Oberammergau is a small village of Upper Bavaria, reached by railway from Munich in two and one-half hours. As the performance lasts all day, one must remain over night. In 1900, 135,000 people visited Oberammergau and many more are expected this year. Following are the dates set for the performances: July 3, 10, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31; August 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31; September 4, 8, 11, 18, 25. In addition to these thirty regular performances, extra ones will be given whenever more visitors appear than seats can be provided for. These extra performances take place on the days following those fixed for the regular ones.

## A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTIANITY.

A remarkable tribute was paid to the Christian religion by a non-Christian Japanese at the dinner tendered the Japanese commercial commissioners a few months ago by the Christian business men of New York City. The principal response on behalf of the guests was made by the chairman of the commission, Baron Shibusawa, who speaks no English and therefore required the services of an interpreter. Whether by intent or misunderstanding, the interpreter failed to transfer to the Americans present the sense of what was probably the baron's most significant and emphatic utterance. But a missionary at the table caught the sentence, took it down, translated it, and verified his translation by submitting the same to a member of the Japanese party familiar with English. The baron's declaration, as thus rendered and verified, was as follows:—"Japan in the future must base her morality on religion. It must be a religion that does not rest on an empty or superstitious faith, like that of some of the Buddhist sects in our land, but must be like the one that prevails in your own country, which manifests its power over men by filling them with good works." As the expression by Japan's most eminent business leader, who is himself not a Christian, this tribute should be sounded throughout our entire land.—Christian Observer.