

# THE AYLESFORD UNION.

"That ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the Gospel."—PAUL.

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## THE MONTH.

The assembling of Dominion Parliament stands further postponed till March 25th.

Lieutenant-Governor Kirkpatrick improves slowly, but hopes to return to Canada by the end of April.

Rev. Messrs. Hunter and Crossley opened a two weeks' series of meetings at Sackville, N. B., on the 21st ult. At the close of this engagement they go to Sherbrooke, Que.

The rotary steam engine has at last become an accomplished fact and promises great results in saving of fuel and increase of efficiency. Grant Brambel, an ingenious American railroad agent, who is author of the invention, has realized \$6,700,000 from its sale to English capitalists.

One can scarcely credit the newspaper reports which place the cost of the Bradley-Martin hall, recently given in New York City, at \$200,000. It is hard to understand the superlative selfishness which makes possible such wanton displays in a civilized and Christian era, when millions of humanity at the same moment are actually perishing for the necessities of life.

European interest now centres in the small and historically troublous island of Crete. The Cretans nominally "Christians of the Greek variety," are in a state of rebellion against Turkish rule and being in the majority on the island seem to be getting the better of the Moslems. Greece backed by Bulgaria, sides with the insurgents. Fearing serious complications the powers have ordered both Greeks and Turks to stand back, while they have sent their warships to check hostilities on the island, pending an adjustment of difficulties. The issue is awaited with interest.

The failure of the United States Senate to endorse the arbitration agreement with England is highly discreditable to the nation, after all that has been said in the Union about American willingness to lead in such a movement. We do not desire to lose confidence in the nation's sincerity but evidence is fast accumulating to lead to such a result.

Scientific experts announce that the pith of the corn-stalk has been found by actual experiment to be the best article known to protect the sides of battleships against intruding water when struck by shells. This will make corn an especially profitable production for our farmers as the pith promises to be as valuable hereafter as the corn grown on the stalk.

Since the cancelling of Dr. Justin D. Fulton's engagement to speak in the Halifax Academy of Music upon the subject "Washington and Ottawa in the lap of Rome," by the directors of the Academy, presumably because of the pressure of Romish influences, it will be in order for somebody to take the platform upon the subject:—"Halifax in the lap of Rome."

There would seem to be just cause for rejoicing on the part of the temperance people of the Dominion. The last month has witnessed movements at Ottawa, Halifax and Fredericton which argue well for the cause of prohibition. A few days ago the Minister of Agriculture is reported to have virtually promised the prohibition convention at Montreal that the plebiscite bill would be brought down during the coming session. The *Montreal Witness* reports that he "aroused the enthusiasm of the temperance workers and when he made the ringing declaration that if the temperance people all over the Dominion rose to the occasion and won the plebiscite a prohibitory law would follow and the drink traffic would be killed, the applause was deafening." This looks like definite business. In pursuance of the recent decision of the Privy Council that a prohibitory enactment would be quite within the provincial prerogative, Firman McClure, M. P. P. for Colchester, introduced a prohibition bill into the Nova Scotia legislature on the 20th ult., and preliminary steps have since been taken at Fredericton looking in the same direction. It is to be hoped that all these measures may be vigorously pressed until they are both in force and enforced.

The Law and Order League of Amherst with N. A. Rhodes as president is after the liquor dealers. Let the good example be followed by temperance men in other towns.

Dr. Briggs has gone to Rome to study Romanism with a view to effecting Christian unity. We would suggest the superior wisdom of going to Christ to study afresh his life and words. If Christian unity is ever effected short of heaven, it will be by the casting away of all man-made "creeds", "confessions", "articles of faith", and the union of all in that allegiance to Christ and Christ only of which Paul wrote to the Philippian church when he prayed them to "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel."

Much opposition has been raised at times to the expensive luxury of a Canadian High Commissioner. That Sir Donald Smith's presence in London is needed at least occasionally was abundantly proven when a few days ago a London magistrate ordered the release of a boy-robber provided he would consent to be shipped to Canada. Canada's Commissioner promptly resented the insult and insisted upon the recall of the order. It is about time that British judges, philanthropists and others learned that Canada is a self-respecting country which does not propose to become an asylum for English criminals and imbeciles.

Acting under instructions from the Vatican, the Catholic Bishops, notwithstanding all that has been said and done, still lead the fight for the alleged rights of the Manitoba minority. It will not therefore be wisdom for the champions of equal rights to rest too securely upon their victory while the foe is still in the field. Some enemies are never dead till their heads are off. At this point Mr. Edward Blako's recent letter to the Solicitor-General of Canada is of especial interest particularly when we recall that the former was the senior counsel for the Roman Catholic minority in the late argument before the Privy Council. He says—"I think it is an entire misapprehension of the judgment of the judicial committee in Brophy's case to say that its effect was that the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba were entitled to their separate schools as they had enjoyed them previous to the Manitoba Act of 1890."