

Dominion Presbyterian

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

President Patton, of Princeton Theological seminary, says that he "hates to see a cold blooded rascal who has \$40,000,000 teach a Sunday school class and drive the hardest bargain within the range of the law on week days." And Dr. Patton is good authority on question of ethics.

Another Nova Scotia Presbyterian, Rev. James McGregor McKay, will be given a jubilee celebration in New Glasgow, June 27th. Rev. Principal Forest of Dalhousie University is to sketch the history of the Presbyterian church in Canada during the past fifty years, and Rev. Anderson Rogers will note the chief points in Mr. McKay's fifty years, in the ministry.

In Manitoba the total area under crops is: Wheat, 2,643,588; oats, 1,031,239; barley, 432,298; total, 4,107,125. Flax, rye, peas, corn and pasture 110,464; grand total 4,217,589. Increase in grain crops is 384,298 acres, other crops 48,879 acres; total 433,177. For the harvest about 30,000 men will be required.

By invitation of the committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Rev. R. E. Welsh, M.A., Presbyterian minister at Hove, Brighton, has been appointed the society's chief secretary for the Dominion of Canada. Among other aims it is intended to devote special attention to the providing of Scriptures for the emigrants of many nationalities, who are daily pouring into this country.

The New York "Evening Post" tells a story of a publisher in Maine who issued 20,000 copies of a volume entitled "Natural History." His travellers returned with the report that it would not sell at any price. He stripped the book of its original covers and re-issued it with the title "God's Wonders in the Animal Creation." The change resulted in the sale of the whole of the first edition and a demand for a reprint.

Mr. Justice Anglin declared the Dominion alien labor act ultra vires, and ordered the release of the two Pere Marquette Railway officials who were held for deportation.

Sir Frederick Treves, of London, G.B., Sergeant-Surgeon of Ordinary to King Edward, has placed himself on record by denouncing alcohol as a deadly poison. It had, he said, certain uses, like other poisons, but the limitations on its use should be as strict as on arsenic, opium, and strychnine. It was a curiously insidious poison producing effects which seemed to be only relieved by taking more of it—a remark which applied to another insidious poison, morphia, or opium. It had a certain position as medicine, but in the last twenty-five years its use by the medical profession had steadily and emphatically diminished.

It is one of the most encouraging signs of the times that in a gathering convened by Hindus and Mohammedans, a Christian should be asked to open the proceedings with a prayer. A few days after the earthquake of the 4th of April some prominent Hindus of Dehra convened a meeting of thanksgiving for preserving the people of the station from the danger of the earthquake. The real movers and organizers of this gathering were non-Christians. It was open to the public. Hindus and Mohammedans and Christians filled the spacious hall of the local Mission School. At the request of the organizers of the meeting the chair was taken by the Rev. Grant Jones, Presbyterian missionary, and the Rev. B. M. Rose offered the opening prayer.

A Catholic priest in St. Louis, Rev. Fr. Coffey, says these true words about the relations of the church to the liquor traffic: "The church that is not up in arms against the liquor traffic is not true to the interests of the Saviour of mankind. There can be no compromise here."

Thirteen ministers of other denominations applied for admission in our church at the General Assembly last week. Two of them were Congregationalists, and two were Baptists, the others were from other Presbyterian bodies in the United States and Scotland. One application was withdrawn; all the others were accepted.

In these days when so much is made of unfermented wine for Communion purposes, it is interesting to find that in 1745 the "elements" used on one memorable occasion were whisky and oatenake. Mr. John Maitland, who was attached to Lord Ogilvie's regiment in the service of Prince Charles, administered the Holy Eucharist to Lord Strathcona on Colloiden Galt, where that nobleman received his death. It is said that oatenake and whisky were used, the ordinary elements not being obtainable. It is related that in one of the remote Hebridean isles, wine not being obtainable, rum was diluted with water, and used instead of port wine.

Doctor J. Everist Cathell, a clergyman of Des Moines, Iowa, was spending a few days in Montreal while out on a holiday. He visited the different churches and in one of them noticed an odd arrangement of the prayer-desks. Wishing to understand the reason, he looked around for the sexton. No one was about except a workman in the rear of the church. Approaching him, Dr. Cathell said:

"My man, I am an American clergyman and have found much of interest in these Canadian churches. But there is something here that I do not understand. Can you tell me if this is 'High Church' or not?"

The workman considered the question seriously for a moment, and then replied: "I never heard that question asked before, sir, but I believe it is thirty-five feet to the ridge-pole."

Lord Avertoun was the principal speaking at the annual breakfast (which Dr. Howie presided) of the Home Missions Committee at the General Assembly in Edinburgh. His lordship spoke in scathing terms of the legal Free Church, who were, he said, putting into churches people who never belonged to the Free Church, and some of them to no Church. They were getting in lay figures to bolster up what was a dying and a failing cause, whatever the Law Courts had said. Referring to the wholesale evictions carried out at the instance of the Free Church, he mentioned the case of his own church at Dumbarton, which had been seized by a few people—a dozen members of the church—highlanders, some of whom the congregation had helped to feed and clothe for the past five years—some malcontents from the Established Church, the Baptist Church, and the Wesleyan Methodist Church. When such things were going on all over Scotland they were face to face with a scandal at which Christendom stood aghast. Though they were pleased with the Government's action and the Royal Commission, it seemed strange that a Government representing law, order, and justice should stand aside and allow evictions to take place. It was a scandal to Scotland.

Dr. Wilbur Chapman, speaking on evangelistic work, said that more people had been converted during the last two years than had been converted during any other two years in the history of the world.

"I hereby agree, with the help of God, to abstain from travelling on Sunday, except under most urgent necessity, and to discourage all such travelling." Such is the pledge the Union Against Sunday Travelling circulates in Britain. Is there not need of a similar effort in Canada?

A blue book issued in England contains a report of the War Office Committee concerning a number of officers alleged to have worked in collusion with contractors. The latter bought discarded army stores at absurdly low prices and resold them to the military authorities at enormous profits. The value of the stores involved in these transactions is between \$30,000,000 and \$35,000,000. The officers involved all belong to the army service corps and pay department.

Deputy Attorney-General Cartwright has sent out this advice to magistrates in regard to the tramp nuisance. "It is once more necessary to call your attention to the law with regard to tramps and vagrants. Men of this class are believed to be responsible for a large number of burglaries and other crimes of violence and it has been found that the best results are obtained by imposing the full term of imprisonment in the Central Prison allowed by law. The practice of giving them the option of a fine or leaving the municipality has been found most unsatisfactory, and I am directed to say that when any men of this class are brought before you, you should administer the law strictly and vigorously as in this way alone can serious crime be prevented. Instructions of this nature have been sent out previously but have not been carried out as they should have been and it is expected that attention will be paid to the directions herein contained. As the railway authorities are co-operating with this department I have to ask you at all times to assist the railway constables who may be acting in this class of cases."

Dr. James Iverach, who has been appointed principal of Aberdeen Free College, in succession to the late Dr. Salmond, is a native of Halkirk, Caithness-shire, where he was born in 1839. He was educated at the University and New College, Edinburgh, and was ordained to the ministry of the Free Church in 1869. His first charge was at West Calder, and in 1875 he became pastor of Ferryhill Church, Aberdeen. Twelve years later he was appointed to succeed the late Dr. David Brown in the Chair of Apologetics and Exegesis in the Free College, Aberdeen, and his election now to the principalship will be popular not only in the Granite City but throughout the Church. Dr. Iverach has contributed largely to reviews and other periodicals, but he is best known as the author of such works as "Is God Knowable?" "Christianity and Evolution," and "St. Paul: His Life and Times." In 1891 the University of Aberdeen conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. Dr. Iverach was chosen by the University of New York in 1888 as the first of the Deems' Lecturers, and his lectures on "Theism in the light of Present Science and Philosophy" were subsequently re-delivered in Manitoba College, Winnipeg, and afterwards published in book form.

Men's lives should be like the day—more beautiful in the evening; or like the summer—adown with promise; and like the autumn—rich with golden sheaves, where good deeds have ripened in the field.