

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

The University of Birmingham, England, has established the first department of commerce, and granted already the first degree of M. Co.,—master of commerce.

They have begun to tear down one of the world's most famous jails, Newgate Prison in London. William Penn was imprisoned there, and Daniel Defoe. Its walls are more than three feet thick, and so solid that in some parts explosives must be used in the work of demolition.

A press despatch tells us that recently the school board of Mahoney township, Pa., removed six of the older teachers in the township. The reason given was that members of the families of these teachers were non-union mine workers. The board unanimously decided that applicants in any way connected with non-union workmen should not receive appointments. This looks very much like a case of unionism run mad. The intelligence and chivalry of people who do such things cannot be of a very high order.

The new Church of St. Ethelwold, Haverdham, which is practically a memorial to the late Mr. Gladstone, was opened last week by the Bishop of St. Asaph. One of the last acts of Mr. Gladstone's life was to urge the necessity of building such a church to meet the increase of the industrial population, and he gave £1,000 towards the building fund, which has amounted to £7,000. Most of the principal windows are the gift of the Byron Society in recognition of Mr. Gladstone's sympathy with suffering Eastern races.

Most Bishops preach temperance. Dr. Ingram, Bishop of London, practises teetotalism. He is said to believe in it for itself, but it is certain, says the Sketch, that he regards it as an indispensable qualification in anyone who wishes to advance the cause of temperance among the intemperate. At a meeting of workmen, one day, he was discussing the usual question when one of the men shouted: "Are you a 'tot'?" "All right, then," he replied; "fire away. If you wasn't, I wouldn't listen to you."

The statistics show that the increase of Protestantism in India in the last ten years has been from 559,000 Protestant Christians to 1,148,000. The population increased two and a half per cent. the Roman and Greek churches 12 per cent. and the Protestant churches, 105 per cent. Which shows not only the increase of nominal Christianity but the amazing vitality of Protestantism. If some of our Pre-millennial brethren will only be patient and agree that the Spirit is able to do all the work of evangelization that could be accomplished by a personal reign of Christ, it may not take long for that 105 per cent to catch up with the $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The Belfast Witness says: The King of Barotseland, a visitor to this country for the Coronation, made a speech recently declaring his admiration for the missionaries. He said they had opened up his country to civilization, and were leading his people out of darkness. He desires that more missionaries be sent. Lewanika is a total abstainer from drink and tobacco, attends Christian worship but is not baptised. His son and heir to the kingdom is a baptised church member. He wishes to place his country, which is as large as Germany, under British protection. No more interesting visitor has come to England for the crowning of King Edward.

Owen Wister's Lin McLean, one of the best books written about life in the West, is reported by the Harpers as being in brisk demand. Mr. Wister writes from first-hand knowledge of his red and white men, and in a style forcible, dramatic and convincing. His success as a writer has come to him within a comparatively brief time, as it was not until 1891 that he first devoted himself to literature. Several years after his graduation from Harvard University he was admitted to the bar, in 1889, and entered the field of literature by way of the law, as so many able authors have done. Mr. Wister is a native and now a resident of Philadelphia.

Mr. Balfour, premier of England, sleeps at least twelve hours a day—sometimes longer—says a writer in a London journal; and though he does not prepare his speeches word for word, like Sir William Harcourt, or dictate them to a shorthand writer, like Disraeli, he does what he calls "thinks them out while in bed," and notes the principal headings on a sheet of folded foolscap, which he holds in his right hand while speaking, and slaps against his left when he wants to emphasise a point. He seldom pauses to find a word, but when he requires time to think of the next argument he sips from a glass of water.

Hamlin Garland, talking the other day of the pleasure an author has in his work, said that his satisfaction does not begin until he gets his pages back from the typist, in a clear and clean copy of what, when it left his hands, was a vicious tangle, most illegibly written. But then begins the revision, a slow, tedious, droming process, often repeated, and very exhausting to the author—in Mr. Garland's opinion, drudgery of the most unrelieved sort. "I get no further pleasure out of it," said Mr. Garland, "until about six months after it is published. Before I began work on 'The Captain of the Gray-Horse Troop,' he added, "it was a most agreeable task to talk for hours with the old men of the Tetong tribe of Indians, through a sign-language interpreter. In this way I have got at the human side of these people. I could have delineated their bad side, but it would have necessitated search. They have always shown their good side to me."

The Dominion Statistician says the Canadian Baptist has reported for the year end-

ing September 30th, 1921, and among the criminal statistics are to be found some things of special interest to those who care for Canada's morality. Throughout the Dominion of Canada as a whole there has been a decrease in the number of convictions as compared with the population, and it is to be specially noted that crime among females of the country is steadily decreasing. Of the large denominations, those who described themselves as Anglicans are more numerous in the great body of convicted criminals than the proportion of Anglicans in the whole population of the Dominion warrants. Those who gave their religious views as Methodists, as Presbyterians, as Baptists, or as Roman Catholics are fewer in number than their proportion in the whole population warrants. One of the most serious things in the report is the evidence that crime among juveniles of the male sex has most alarmingly increased. Here especially is food for thought on the part of parents, Sunday School workers, and the members of our churches in general.

Some time ago a report was published in the newspapers of resuscitating a boy who had been under the water for twenty-five minutes and was supposed to be dead. The case was so remarkable that the life-saving service officials at Washington investigated the matter, securing substantiation of the story. Within four hours after the body was removed from the water the child regained consciousness. The New York Witness referring to the incident says: "There is great danger that attempts to resuscitate an apparently drowned person will be abandoned too soon. The case looks so utterly hopeless that inexperienced persons, and even doctors, may easily be deceived in regard to the actual conditions. A fly can be revived after having been a good while under water by simply covering it with salt and leaving it alone. There must be much greater vitality in a human being than a fly." The above advice is well worth being remembered and acted upon when such emergencies arise.

The education controversy in the mother country threatens to become a burning one in Scotland. In Scotland the Presbyterian Catechism is taught in the Board Schools, and in this there has been a pretty general acquiescence in the past as was natural in a country where an overwhelming majority of the people are Presbyterians. But the Scottish Episcopal Church is alarmed. There are Episcopalian schools, but only ten per cent. of the Episcopalian children go to them, and the other ninety per cent quietly learn the Shorter Catechism. Perhaps the Sacredotalists in England may be led to see that they are playing a dangerous game for themselves in striving to secure absolute control of the Board schools. One of the first cases to come before the New South Wales Arbitration Court is that of the undertakers' assistants. They want their hours fixed at sixty per week. The master undertakers reply that owing to the habit people have of dying at unreasonable times, and of remaining alive one week and then perishing in batches the next, it is impossible to fix hours.