

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents

NOTE AND COMMENT

With the maximum rate of fare two cents per mile the railroads of Ohio collected more money than they did when the maximum rate was three cents per mile. The increase is, in round numbers \$1,330,000.

The ministers' meeting at the First church last Monday, says the Michigan Presbyterian of Detroit, was enlivened with a talk by Rev. Robert E. Knowles, of Galt, Canada, who, in felicitous words, strengthened the ties of brotherhood which already bind together the Presbyterians of two great countries.

The passing of the manufacture of Bessemer steel in the United States is announced from Pittsburg. The Bessemer departments of the Duquesne and Homestead steel works of the United States Steel Corporation have been closed down, and in the place at least of the former department a great open-hearth furnace will be substituted. The growing capacity of high-grade ore accounts for the decline in the making of steel by the Bessemer process.

The everyday life of the Emperor Francis Joseph—who is now so seriously ill—has been one of great simplicity. A believer in earlier rising, it has been his custom to be up every morning at five, and after a light breakfast to walk for nearly two hours. At seven o'clock his despatches are brought to him, and for the next few hours his whole attention is devoted to affairs of State.

At midday the Emperor takes some light refreshment, and at half-past two dinner is served. His Majesty, however, eats very little, but is noted for his great vivacity, as he converses on many subjects. He usually spends the afternoon in reading and walking. A light supper is served at seven o'clock, after which he enjoys a little music, and his day ends about eight, when he goes to bed. The Emperor is now in his seventy-eighth year.

New South Wales has the usual Anglo-Saxon record of heavy expenditures caused by intemperance, far more than counterbalancing the revenue derived from the traffic by the State. In dealing with this question, Canon Boyce says: "It is argued that the receipts from the liquor traffic are an important asset to the State. Last year they amounted to £1,172,848; of this, £1,089,204 was from Customs duty and Excise, and £82,644 from license fees. I readily admit that this is a large item in the revenue. But there are serious expenses on the other side. One-third of the poverty and two-thirds of the crime, etc., are traceable to drink, and show a cost of about £700,000 a year. If, again, 10,000 persons do not work because of drink, there is a loss of £1,040,000 at £2 a week each. According to Adam Smith, labor is wealth. This estimate is not extravagant when we remember that 20,000 convictions in our courts for drunkenness in a year, the thousands who become drunk but are not arrested, the Domain loafers, the sun-downers who tramp the country districts, and those of other classes largely affected by alcoholism. These figures—and I merely touch a part of this branch of the liquor question—show a heavy debit for the country on the wrong side."

A Methodist missionary in China is credited with having told the Chicago Conference recently that the advance of Christianity in China during the last five years had been greater than in Japan during the past fifty years.

One more instance of the power of punctuation. Even a comma may play the very mischief. Not many years ago a distinguished graduate of Oxford decided to enter the Non-conformist ministry, and to wear no sacerdotal garb. And he announced his intention in a manifesto containing the words, "I shall wear no clothes, to distinguish me from my fellow Christians."

Mr. John Morley, Secretary of State for India, addressing his constituents at Arbroath, confined his speech to India. Replying to those who declared he had swallowed his Liberal principles, he declared that in the interests of India, our own national honour, and in the name of duty and common sense, our first and commanding task was to keep order, quell violence, and sternly to insist upon impartial justice, independent of European or Indian. He stigmatised as the height of political folly the suggestion that what suited Canada in the way of administration would suit India. The Government of India would neither be hurried by impatient idealists in its programme of reforms nor driven by stern repressionists into needless measures of coercion. The situation in India, was not at all dangerous, but it required serious and vigilant attention. He had never lost his invincible faith that there is a better mind in all great communities of the human race. They were appealing to the better mind. The root of the unrest was racial, and not political. They were calling Indians into Council, instituting reforms, fighting the plague, and preparing to face the possibility of famine.

The New York Christian Intelligence notes a gratifying fact that vigorous measures are to be inaugurated for reclaiming abandoned farms. Secretary Wilson and leading officials of the Department of Agriculture, at Washington, are taking a great interest in this question, which is becoming more and more acute in New York State, in New England, and in other parts of the East. What the desertion of the farm means to New York State is shown by the fact that land values there decreased \$168,000,000 in the twenty years from 1880 to 1900. The 1900 census showed this, and also that there were 14,000 less farms in New York in 1900 than in 1880. It likewise showed a 16 per cent. decline in rural population as compared with 1890. That such a falling off in farm values and farm population must injure the business of the cities is apparent. The same facts in general could have been obtained by a study of Pennsylvania and Ohio, New Jersey, Vermont, and Maine. Massachusetts and New Hampshire have already done something to counteract the tendency to desert the farm. The older provinces of Canada are suffering from the same cause—abandoned farms, and there is urgent need that something practical should be done to counteract the evil. In fact Nova Scotia has inaugurated a movement in that direction. The occupancy and tillage of the abandoned farms in our eastern provinces, including Ontario, would improve business immensely and of course increase our population.

The activity and aggressiveness displayed by the Christians of Korea—so often referred to as the "hermit nation,"—is simply marvellous. Exchanges tell us of the Presbyterian church at Pyeng Yang, that it has a regular Sunday-school attendance of from one thousand to twelve hundred pupils, and a membership of more than fourteen hundred. This church has five colonies in the same city, each fully organized, and is planting numerous missions. As an instance of enterprise, the church recently canvassed the entire city and carried gospel invitations to the whole population. In the same Presbytery there are fifty-two churches and twenty-seven of this number have enlarged their buildings during the past year, while eighteen new churches have been erected within the same period.

Says the Cumberland Presbyterian: "If we expect to enlist the practically-minded men of to-day in church activities, then the church must become active along lines which appeal to these same practical men. It is useless to shut our eyes to the fact that the religious emphasis is not placed to-day where it was in days that are past. In the time of the Reformation the emphasis was placed on faith, and there was a hearty response to the rallying cry. It was a faithless age, and the call to faith was recognized as timely. In Wesley's day, it was the need of personal piety which was apparent, and he easily won recruits for a campaign in behalf of personal holiness. Faith and personal piety are needed still, but the emphasis is elsewhere. This age demands that the emphasis shall be upon good works, upon 'the faith that worketh by love.'" This is a thought that needs emphasizing.

That there is a widespread awakening and unrest in Roman Catholic communities in several countries of Europe—notably France, Italy, Austria and Spain cannot be gainsaid. The seriousness of this unrest is indicated by the outspoken protests and comments of prominent Roman Catholics, laymen as well as clergymen on the reactionary features of the policy of the present pontiff, who has apparently surrendered to the influence of the Ultramontane wing of the Papacy. For instance, here is a protest recently published in the London Tablet (Romanist Organ) by Rev. Father Tyrrell, a noted Jesuit, who claims to have large correspondence with Roman Catholics, laymen and priests, who are in doubt of their beliefs, and anxious as to their spiritual state. Rev. Father Tyrrell says: Cardinal Ferrata now desires to control that vast correspondence which for ten years I have held with people troubled about their faith, or rather about their theology; correspondence mostly with Catholic priests and prelates; with seminarians and their professors; with writers and teachers; with religious and their bewildered superiors; and also with many souls outside the Church; often with Ministers of religion—always, or nearly always, with those who come to me secretly and privately as to one whose secrecy they can trust."

This is very plain speaking for a Roman Catholic priest, which must be the outcome of a strong current of unrest and anxiety which seems to be honeycombing the thinking masses of that denomination. The Belfast Witness suggests: "Would that Father Tyrrell would become a later Savonarola." Such a figure may appear sooner than most people imagine.