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## The Presbyterian Review.

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### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

An attack on the Sabbath by the Marine Association has happily been foiled. The Association asked the Government to open the Welland Canals Remain Closed on Sundays. Canal from midnight to 6 a.m. and from 9 p.m. to midnight on Sundays, urging that the interests of traffic demanded this concession. But the Government has acted in accordance with the sentiment of the country, and on the principle that commercial gain is not a sufficient reason for Sunday labour. The argument from profit and loss was set aside by the Court in the Merritton Carbide Case and now the Dominion Government follows the same rule. The Lord's Day Alliance has scored another victory.

Both Dr. Shields of Princeton and Dr. Briggs of New York have joined the Episcopal Church. Their Presbyterian Pro-departure from the Presbyterian church has been felt by many as a Episcopal Church relief. If we may judge from the Living Church they are not particularly welcome in the church of their choice. In the last issue it says: We admit to a feeling of considerable anxiety over the addition to the church of a body of men, however learned and eminent, who follow the lines of Drs. Briggs and Shields.

Dr. Horton one of the best known Congregational Ministers in London, England, has proposed that here- The Drift of English after there should be only one Congregationalism. Congregational Church in the Metropolis instead of the many now existing. He

calls attention to the fact that in the New Testament we never read about the churches in such a city; but of the church—and he thinks the same ought to be the case now. He has like many others, become sensible of the inherent weakness of the congregational system and wishes to move in the direction of Presbytery. We hail this with satisfaction, not as a triumph of the system, but as a means of increasing the efficiency of one of the leading nonconformist bodies in England. It is becoming more and more apparent that the future of Evangelicalism in the fold land is being bound up with the nonconformist bodies. The national church is growing ever more Sacramentarian.

The Swann Virekananda, who made such a sensation in Chicago at the Parliament of Religions and was said to have boasted so loudly of the superiority of Hinduism to Christianity—on his first return home, seems to have changed his tone. In a recent speech published in *The India Mirror* he berates his fellow-countrymen in no measured terms for their inferiority in character and for the degrading superstitions to which they have surrendered themselves. He charges them with having "the most hideous ceremonies, the most horrible; the most obscene books that human hands ever wrote or the human brain ever conceived, the most lustful foras that ever passed under the name of religion." This is exactly what the missionaries have been telling us all along. It has been confirmed by their converts. And now the same testimony comes from one of their own leaders. Surely things are moving rapidly to the time when the whole nation shall be born as it were in one day. As soon as we are organized for victory it will be ours.

Rev. Lyman Abbott attracted a large and cultured audience at Toronto last week. His subject was *Evolution in Religion*, on which he expressed his well-known views. It was nothing new nor unexpected that he should have avowed himself a "radical evolutionist," a position he remarked he could consistently hold and not become an infidel. Nay, he conceded that a man might be an evolutionist and still be a Christian. The address was thoughtful and ably expressed and from the speaker's point of view as successful as such oratorical efforts usually are. Perhaps the most welcome part was the preliminary remarks respecting the community of interests existing between Great Britain and the United States which would ensure co-operation and good will in the future in the interests of peace and humanity.

The papers for the United Presbyterian Synod, which met on Monday, were issued in advance. The most important of these relates to the Union negotiations, and embodies the report of the Joint Committee of the Free and U. P. Churches. The Joint Committee in their report deal with the question of Union under four heads. In regard to