

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment

The fees at Queen's University for pass examinations in science and arts have been raised from \$3 to \$6, and in honor examinations from \$4 to \$8. This is done with a view of raising more funds, and thereby making the college more self-sustaining.

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Confirmed drunkards are shamed into reformation in many of the towns of the Argentine Republic by being compelled to sweep the streets for eight days each time they may be arrested for intoxication. A similar enactment in the various Provinces of the Dominion might be productive of beneficial effects. It would be an extreme measure, but habitual drunkards require severe treatment to bring them to their senses.

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Norway has passed a law prohibiting the sale of tobacco to any boy under sixteen years of age without a signed order from an adult relative or an employer. Foreign travelers are also forbidden to offer cigarettes to boys, and make themselves liable to prosecution if they do so. The police are required to confiscate all the pipes, cigars, and cigarettes of boys who smoke in the public streets. A sliding scale of fines is provided. They vary from 50 cents to \$25.

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The Bibelot (T. B. Mosher, Portland, Maine) for April, contains a beautiful little sketch by Frederick Wedmore entitled "Orgeas and Miradon, Dream of Providence." It is a fine graceful story of a man who lost his daughter, and who believed she would return nine days after her burial. In the preface it is well described in the words Walter Pater used of Du Bellay as having "a certain silvery grace of fancy, nearly all the pleasure of which is in the surprise at the happy and dexterous way in which a thing slight in itself is handled." And we are told that in "Orgeas and Miradon the theme rises by exquisite gradations to almost unbearable analytic poignancy." A short story with such a reputation does not need to be reviewed or quoted, and we can simply advise the lovers of literary gems to get it.

An extraordinary story comes from Prussia. A schoolmaster of a town in Alsace was seized with cramps whilst bathing, and would have been drowned had not one of his colleagues sprung into the water, and at the risk of his own life saved the life of his comrade. In almost any other part of Europe the brave rescuer would have been rewarded with a medal. In Alsace he was rewarded by a prosecution for bathing at a prohibited spot, condemned to pay a fine, and 2 marks 50 pfennings costs.—The Fireside.

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Bonn on the Rhine has been investigating the liquor drinking habits of its small children. Out of two hundred and forty-seven children of the age of seven and eight years in the primary schools, there was not one who had not tasted beer or wine and about one-quarter of them had tasted brandy. Beer or wine was drunk regularly every day by one-quarter of them. Eight per cent. received a daily glass of cognac from their parents to make them strong, and sixteen per cent. would not drink milk because they said "it had no taste."

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Mr. W. T. Stead comments in the English Review of Reviews on Rudyard Kipling's poem, "The White Man's Burden." The poet, he says, has put the matter of expansion on the highest and most unselfish grounds. He has idealized and transfigured imperialism, and has shown its essence to be not lordship, but service. Empire over the undeveloped peoples is the burden he bids our kin to take up. He bids them send forth the pick of their sons, that in the exile of remote provinces they may supply the wants of the conquered races and train the sullen peoples, half devil and half child. He bids them learn the lesson of unostentatious service, of frank unthreatening intercourse, and of untiring altruism. Police wars, campaigns against famine, the battle with pestilence and with ancient sloth and stupidity—these are the arduous duties to which he invites American energies. He offers only the old reward, the hatred and censure and misunderstanding of the peoples you try to benefit; but he reminds them of the solemn fact that their conduct decides the judgment which the subject races will form of the white man's religion and civilization.

When the English captured the city of Benin, they found and sent to the British Museum some three hundred remarkable bronze figures with various ornaments in relief. The lines are strong and the workmanship of great beauty. The origin of these castings greatly puzzles ethnologists. It is now thought by some archaeologists, notably Mr. Read, of the British Museum, that they were the work of some European bronze founders who settled there in the sixteenth century.

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The decay of vital religion in many localities in the United States has been frequently referred to; but it remained for the Chief Magistrate of a New England commonwealth to indicate, in a public proclamation, the low level to which the people have fallen since the days of the Puritan fathers. Governor Rollins, of New Hampshire, in his Fast Day Proclamation, says: "There are towns in the state where no church bell sends forth its solemn call from January to January; there are villages where children grow to manhood unchristened. There are communities where the dead are laid away without the benison of the name of the Christ and where marriages are solemnized only by justices of the peace."

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Mr. Zangwill, the novelist, has returned from his tour in America, and has given a Daily Mail interviewer an account of several of his experiences. Perhaps the most amusing is the following: "My experience of the American reporter leads me to the conviction that you must either accept him unconditionally or reject him absolutely. No temporizing or attempts to dodge him will pay. Perhaps the most extraordinary specimen of the American journalist that I ever met was a young man in Cincinnati. He called on me one night, told me that he was racked and torn with religious doubts, and asked my guidance. With such reasoning and thought as I have at command I tried to help him to a clearer view, and he went away full of gratitude. Imagine my utter astonishment when, next day, I found this young gentleman posing throughout the interview as a profound thinker, while I figured feebly as a shallow sophist."