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Note and Comment.

The Rev. G. Campbell Morgan, of London, it is said, has declined the call to become successor to the late D. L. Moody at Northfield.

The famine works in the Punjab and Ajmere have been closed. The number of people on relief has been reduced to a million and a-half.

There were nearly 6,000 entries for homesteads in Manitoba and Northwest Territories for the eight months ending Aug. 31st, as compared with 4,804 for the same period last year.

There are few more prosperous colonies belonging to Great Britain than New Zealand. Its climate is surpassed nowhere in the world, its mineral wealth is vast, and its energy boundless.

General Buller declares that the war in South Africa must be credited to the refusal of Lord Beaconsfield in 1877 to give Sir Bartle Frere the troops and money he asked for to consolidate the country.

Rev. D. Frew, St. Ninians, is not only the father of the late U. P. Church, but also of the United Free Church, his ordination taking place 7 days before that of the oldest Free Church minister now living.

No special unfavorable symptoms in the Czar's condition have been developed, and there is a feeling of confidence in Russia that he will recover. Prayers in his behalf are being offered in the churches.

The recent loss of the steamship Monticello is the greatest disaster which has occurred in connection with coasting steamships in the water of the Maritime Provinces since the loss of the Fairy Queen half a century ago.

The clock which is being placed in the tower of the new Toronto City Hall will be the largest in Canada. It will have four 30-foot dials—10 inches less in diameter than the clock on the Parliament building in London, England.

It is understood in London that a statement in the Natal Mercury means that Lord Kitchener will depopulate the small towns in the Transvaal and concentrate their populations in the large towns, following out a reconcentrado policy.

The guerrilla warfare still continues in South Africa, but while in the early part of the war Boer surprises of the British used to be the rule British surprises of the Boers are now steadily reported. The Boerbatjes have learned their enemy's tricks and are outwiping them.

Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales are seeking to discourage the practice of docking the tails of horses, and that therefore this method of disfiguring and ill-treating valuable and sensitive animals may soon pass out of fashion in England. It ought to be abandoned everywhere.

The Duke of Argyle highly praises the attitude of Canada in regard to the war in Africa, and says the loyalty of the Dominion is a loyalty to liberty, and her attachment to Great Britain becomes stronger as years roll by. Our former governor-general rightly gauges the position of Canada.

Dr. Cameron Lees was present at the Union rejoicings in Edinburgh on the 31st ult., and gave the new Church his benediction. "Peace be within your walls," he said, "and prosperity within your palaces. For my friends' and my companions' sake, I say it, may the blessing of God be in you."

In the Senate of France, last week, M. Piot introduced a bill aiming to arrest the depopulation of France. It provides for a tax on celibates of both sexes after they reach the age of 30, and upon childless couples who have been married five years, the tax to be maintained until a child is born to them.

A Chinese Imperial decree degrades Prince Tuan from his rank and orders his imprisonment for life; and a cable despatch states that he has been apprehended. A Shanghai correspondent thinks this will render it impossible for Prince Tuan's son, the present heir-apparent, ever succeeding to the Chinese throne.

Ten years ago the Presbytery of New York, remarks the Christian Observer, voted in favor of Revision 67 to 15. Three weeks ago the vote on Revision in New York Presbytery was 71 to 71, and the casting vote of the Moderator determined the vote of the Presbytery as desiring the dismissal of the whole subject.

One of the Liverpool clergy of the Established Church of England is trying to employ church women as regular supplementary curates, and he suggests that much organizing work of the parish might better be done by women than by clergymen. He declares that he can get three women to work for the price of one curate and do three times the work.

The Salt Trust of the United States has increased the price of a good quality of table salt nearly 130 per cent—from \$1.10 a hundred pounds to \$2.50. The trust controls directly 95 per cent. of the salt output of the country and is said to be able indirectly to dominate the remaining 5 per cent. of the production. Its principal mines are in Michigan.

The Ontario Immigration Department reports that the number of persons coming into the province from other countries this year is over 30 per cent larger than has been the case in previous years. An American is offering to buy 10,000 acres of land in new Ontario with a view of establishing a small colony of settlers there. The premier province has certainly a "growing time."

Hon. Mr. Mulock is not likely to find much difficulty in dealing with registered letter insurance. The sole question to be considered is that of revenue. If it can be made to cover cost and probably yield a profit he will be justified in adopting it; not otherwise. And there are data on which a computation can be made to determine with reasonable accuracy what the result would be.

Dr. Parkhurst announces that a syndicate of wealthy men propose to start an ideal newspaper in New York. He says that its main end will be to tell the truth. It is described as a newspaper that will print all the news, without fear or favor; one that will not be influenced by advertisers or patronage; a newspaper of limitless enterprise and abundant capital; one with a high moral purpose, unshakable and unpurchasable. A newspaper conducted on such lines would exert a wonderful influence for good in any community.

The recent elections in Newfoundland resulted favorably for the Liberals, and are considered a victory over Mr. Reid, a rich contractor, who built a railway across the island for the Government. The government was unable to pay what it owed him for building the road, and the road itself, together with great land grants, passed into Mr. Reid's hands. He thus became probably the greatest land holder in the world. In association with his sons he has opened up mines, operates coastwise steamships in connection with his railroad, owns and operates the trolley lines in the capital town, has established paper pulp mills to work up the forest resources tapped by his railroad, and seems to have turned the island of Newfoundland into something like one immense private estate.

Miss Maxwell, Edinburgh, the leading lady deaconess of the Church of Scotland, reports that there are more than 400 branches of the women's guild in Scotland, with a membership of 36,000.

The historic "Byron's Tree" in Banff Old Manse garden has been blown down. Byron, when a boy, lived for some time in Banff, and it was during this period that the tree became connected with his name.

Early in the history of the South African war, says the Times, a soldier belonging to the neighborhood of Newry was reported by the War Office to have been killed at Stormberg. Keen public sympathy was felt for his wife and family, for whose wants due provision was made. Last week the young soldier walked quietly into his home, and was confronted with the usual obituary card framed and suspended on the wall as a record of his death, and by a wife who could scarcely believe he was still alive and in the flesh.

The strictest incognito, says the London Onlooker, was preserved by the Princess of Wales during her visit to Paris. She stayed at a very quiet hotel and her name was registered as Mrs. Stevens. Her first visit to the exhibition was kept so secret that not even the newspapers heard anything about it, and it was only when she went again with the King of Greece that there was any public knowledge of her visit. During her stay in Paris she went out "driving" in an automobile once or twice; and she also visited some of the shops.

Canada will not send any troops to join in the inauguration ceremonies of the inauguration of the Confederation of the Australian Colonies, but she will send her hearty good wishes for the success of the new confederation. A few days ago a rumor obtained currency that Hon. Mr. Mulock would go as the representative of Canada on the occasion; but it is now said that his duties in Canada will make this impossible. Cape Colony will send a delegate to be present at the celebration. Canada will also find a suitable representative to send.

The appeal issued to the members of the congregations who refuse to go into the union with the U. P. church and others by the anti-union Assembly states that, "At all costs we are prepared to adhere to the Westminster Confession of Faith and the other standards of the church of 1848 as heretofore understood." It is urged that office bearers should not recognize the jurisdiction of the new Church Courts, but lodge a protest, and resist all attempts to enroll them under the flag of the new church. Individual members are asked not to lift their certificates of membership, but intimate to the minister or session clerk of the nearest congregation "which remains faithful to the Free Church" that they adhere to the Free Church. Collections, monthly and quarterly, will be taken for the sustentation and other funds of the church as formerly.

Prof. George Adam Smith has replied to an attack by a newspaper correspondent. He writes:—I hold, and have always taught, that in the Old Testament we have from God a genuine and a unique revelation of Himself, the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and of His purposes of grace to all mankind. And I firmly believe that on the lines of the recent criticism, a more firm apologetic can be laid down for the revelation than the older Biblical criticism was able to provide. As some lectures of mine on the whole subject are shortly to be published, I need not further trouble you with my views, but will only add that while to an increasing number of devout Christians recent criticism has afforded an explanation (on the lines of Christ's own teaching and the doctrine of the Reformers) of many of the literary and moral difficulties of the Old Testament, it has also confirmed their faith in the great evangelical truths of the Christian religion.