

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

The Toronto News is right in saying: When the laymen take hold of a movement in real earnest it is bound to be a success. This is not a reflection upon the clergy. It is merely an acknowledgment of the fact that the laymen have the money.

Prof. John E. McPadyen, of Knox College, Toronto, is writing a commentary on the Corinthians and Galatians for Christian workers and students. He brings to the work special qualifications, owing to his studies in the Old Testament as the author of "Old Testament Criticism in the Christian Church," etc.

The question of mixed marriages, brought before the yearly meeting of the Friends has been referred to a committee for consideration until a year hence. The present rule is that the marriage of a Friend to a person not of that sect bars from membership in the meeting, and it is this rule that it is desired to change.

Commissioner Booth Hellberg, who some years ago married Miss Lucy Booth, Gen. Booth's youngest daughter, died in Berlin last week from heart failure. The commissioner was one of the first to join the Salvation Army after it began work in Sweden twenty-seven years ago. He was a graduate of Upsala University.

Pope Pius X. has just established in Rome a Biblical Institute or University, with the object of placing the study of the Bible on a thoroughly organized and scientific footing for the purpose of exegesis and polemics. The Pope is to nominate the president of the new institute, but to make his choice from a list of three submitted to him by the General of the Jesuits. One object of the institute is to make Rome a centre of Biblical research.

One of the most interesting features of Nonconformist activity at Cambridge, says the British Weekly, is the Welsh service which is held on Sunday afternoons during term for the benefit of the undergraduates who hail from Wales. The leading spirit of the movement is Mr. Richard Lloyd George, the eldest son of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is a student at Christ College, and who inherits all his father's passionate devotion for Nonconformity.

A boy is a precious trust and a tremendous responsibility. What is going to become of the boys? Everybody ought to be asking that question, and trying to supply some solution of it. The boys of today will be the men of tomorrow, and the girls of today will rule tomorrow's men. Wherefore let every one now carelessly concerning the boys and girls wake up and go to work to solve that greatest of all questions before the American people—how to save the youth of the land for Christ and the world.

Dr. William A. Briggs, of Laos, an interesting country little known to most Americans, says that "Buddhism is now a dead issue, save possibly in Boston. Some people seem to be trying to start a cult in this country, remarks the N. Y. Observer, but in far-away Laos Buddhism is on a rapid decline. Laos is a great country and deserves to be better known." The trouble with these half-baked American Buddhists is that they do not know that they are trying to resuscitate a corpse. But there is no end to the folly into which people who forsake the pure, searching Gospel of Jesus Christ will plunge.

Everybody admires the Bible, but the real question is, how many people are really making it the rule of their lives? The Bible is not a curiosity, it is a commandment; it is not a collection of pretty sentiments, it is a moral imperative. The Bible is a book which must be incorporated in one's daily conduct and appropriated inwardly into the texture of a man's character. No one really appreciates or honors the Scripture who cannot say from the heart and with truth:

"Holy Bible, Book divine,  
Precious treasure, thou art mine."

Three German meteorologists of Strasburg are engaged now in organizing a scientific expedition, to last six months, in Greenland. The special aim of this expedition is to take meteorological observations by means of a balloon, equipped with automatic registering apparatus. This apparatus belongs to the aeronautical observatory at Manzell, and it has been placed by Count Zeppelin at the service of the expedition. But other scientific investigations are also to be made, and especially with regard to the presence of coal, and these investigations will be followed with the closest interest by the German Natal authorities.

In the course of his address as retiring Moderator of the Irish Presbyterian Church, at the opening meeting of the Assembly, the Rev. Dr. McIlveen paid high compliment to Lord and Lady Aberdeen. In the discharge of his duties during the year he had, he said, frequently been brought into contact with the representative of the Sovereign in Ireland, from whom he had received the greatest consideration and kindness. Lord and Lady Aberdeen had shown every desire to promote the moral and material welfare of all classes of the people, and had willingly lent their aid to many undertakings in which members of that Church were particularly interested.

Goethe says: "It is easier to perceive error than to find truth, for the former lies on the surface and is easily seen, while the latter lies in the depths, where few are willing to search." This is delusive, says the Christian Advocate, because it does not apply universally. Many of the most dangerous delusions seem at first glance to be truth; the error lies in the depths where few are willing to search. That is the case with the spiritual side of Eddyism, many theories of the relations of the sexes, teachings of certain classes of Perfectionists, the patchwork of Millerism that frightened half the world, Russellism and his Millennial Dawn, Socialism, and Campbellism. Some of Goethe's fantastic theories seem true, and only clear penetration and prolonged thought can discern the error deep under a mass of rhetorical flowers.

The writer of the Epistle to the Romans, who very likely, if not certainly, was Paul, declared, in a passionate outpouring of his heart, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved!" Israel still, as in the days when that epistle was written, has a certain "zeal of God," but it is "not according to knowledge." The Jews refuse to submit themselves to God's righteousness, and that is their continual condemnation. They fail to see that it is not a question as to how they think Christ ought to have come, but a fact that He has come, of which historic Christianity is the incontrovertible proof. When the Hebrews humble themselves to receive salvation on God's terms, and accept Christ's imputed and inwrought righteousness, they will become indeed, as they are not now in the real sense, children of Abraham.

Mr. E. T. Cook, the Editor of Ruskin's works, addressing a meeting of the Ruskin Union at Whitelands College, referred to the influence of the Bible on Ruskin's writings, and the diligent study he made of the Scriptures. The number of Biblical references in Ruskin's works must, he said, be about 13,000, and Ruskin always quoted from memory. He (Mr. Cook) had discovered only one small slip in those references. In an allusion to David, Ruskin wrote of "the three smooth stones out of the brook" with which David went to meet Goliath. The number of stones which David chose was five, "but," added Mr. Cook, "the odd two are hardly worth throwing at Ruskin's memory."

Mrs. Humphrey Ward, advocating the formation of play centres for children in crowded districts, writes (in the "Windsor Magazine")—The saying that "Waterloo was won in the playing fields at Eton" has almost passed into a proverb in the language. Thinkers and workers cannot but see that England is approaching another, an industrial Waterloo, and her one chance of winning it is to turn out decent, honest working men and women; and it is in the hours out of school as much as in the school itself that the children from whom these men and women are to be bred must learn. These play centres make for the completion of the better educational system; they are the natural supplement of the work of the day schools.

Bishop Thicknesse, Archdeacon of Northampton, roundly denounces what he terms "the degradation of the Sabbath by people in society," in a recent address to his clergy. "What we have to deal with now," he said, "is the open disregard of the worship of the Almighty God by persons in the higher walks of life, their selfish profanities of the day of public worship by needless journeys, motor expeditions, dinner parties, and games, to the utter deprivation also of the Sunday rest and quiet needed by their ill-used servants and dependents. I know as a fact of a large fancy dress dinner party held on the first Sunday of Lent at a country house in the neighboring county, where so-called ladies shamelessly appeared dressed as men and so-called gentlemen dressed as women. I mention it with profound shame, sorrow and indignation. I am almost ready to disown the name 'gentlemen,' for men with more money than manners, with more pretence than pedigree, have brought it to this and dragged it in the mire of their corrupt habits."

In his address at the opening of a General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, the retiring Moderator, Rev. Dr. McIlveen, said it was very pleasant to observe the greatly increased desire for Union in all the Churches. The Churches of the Colonies, comparatively free from our historical embarrassments, had been taking a lead in the matter, and much progress had been made in Canada and Australia. The movement of this kind in which they in Ireland were specially interested was that which had taken place in Scotland. The union between the Free Church of Scotland and the United Presbyterian Church seemed to have given a great impetus to the movement in favor of a union between the Church of Scotland and the now United Free Church, and a strong desire had sprung up amongst the people on both sides to have all the Presbyterians of Scotland united in one great National Church. They in the Irish Church, intimate communion with them both, wished every success to the movement.