

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA

Single Copies 5 Cents

NOTE AND COMMENT

Berwick (England) Presbytery has, by a large majority, declared the Synod's proposals for an interchange of pastors to be of a revolutionary character, and to be neither desirable nor practicable.

Says the British Weekly:—Lady Constance Lytton, who, in consequence of her refusal to be "bound over" for her share in the most recent Suffragette "raid," is now in Holloway Prison, can claim a connection with Mr. Balfour, her eldest sister, Lady Betty Balfour, having been for the past twenty-two years the wife of his brother, Mr. Gerald Balfour.

According to a report by Mr. J. S. Larke, Canadian trade commissioner at Sydney, N.S.W., during 1908, there were only 94 persons of Canadian birth convicted of crime, as compared with 368 of United States origin. In none of the Canadian cases were the crimes serious, while 14 Americans were convicted for grave offences. Drink is given as the cause of crime in a majority of the Canadian cases.

The Rev. John Courtenay Clarke, D.D., who is nominated by an overwhelming majority of Presbyteries for the Moderatorship of the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church, has served the church for over a quarter of a century in the wilds of Connemara, following a brief pastorate in the County Down, and has yet had no inconsiderable voice in the management of church affairs. He is Dean of Residence in the Galway Queen's College, a Commissioner of National Education, and ex-Moderator of the Dublin Synod, and, as Convener of the Home Mission Committee for over twenty years, his name is inseparably linked with the Assembly's scheme for church extension.

The Ninth Council of the "Alliance of the Reformed Churches throughout the world holding the Presbyterian System" will be held in New York City June 15, 25, 1909. The business sessions will be held in the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church corner 55th Street. The Council will represent in one body more than eighty Presbyterian national and denominational churches, found on all the five continents, and a constituency of about thirty millions of persons. The Chairman of the Committee of arrangements is the Rev. D. J. Burrell, D.D., No. 1 W. 96th Street, and the secretary, the Rev. J. Ross Stevenson, D.D., No. 7 W. 55th Street, New York City.

"A year ago the civilized world was horrified by the assassination of the king and Crown Prince of Portugal, a fate evidently intended to include the queen consort and the second son of the king, the latter of whom succeeded to the throne. The world is again horrified to hear of the way in which the anniversary was kept by some of the people in Lisbon, the capital. They indulged in the mock killing of a mock king, followed by a mock funeral. The police were unable to prevent this disgraceful spectacle. The Portuguese were great discoverers and colonizers in the early days, but like their neighbors, the Spaniards, have sadly degenerated as a nation. Can it be that their religion has anything to do with it. No nation which came under the influence of the Reformation indulges in such disgraceful celebrations.

The Morning Star, writing of the Boston revival, says: "As a single evidence—one case in hundreds—of the influence of the meetings, we met a bright young man who, coming from Boston to secure employment, and not succeeding, finally consented to go to work for a wholesale liquor house. But after attending two or three meetings he determined, without advising with any one, that he could no longer remain in the liquor business, and so gave up his position.

Speaking at the annual conversazione of the Central Presbyterian Association of Belfast, Mr. John Sinclair (hon. treasurer), referred to the influence of Presbyterianism at present in that country, and enumerated some of the important posts held by members of the Presbyterian Church. Beginning with the Lord-Lieutenant, who is a Presbyterian, Mr. Sinclair added that if rumour spoke true, one of their own past presidents would be the next to fill that position. The audience, by their applause, proved that they were "glad in the uptake."

While the English papers are discussing with some degree of alarm the deficit of about £20,000,000 facing Mr. Asquith (says the Washington correspondent of "The Times"), it may be cheering to them to hear that the optimistic Mr. Taft, when asked to express an opinion about the American deficit of precisely the same amount which confronts the Treasury, replied:—"It is not serious. The normal revival of business after the tariff has been settled will soon take care of a little matter like that."

Recent estimates on the attendance at school in Japan show that the proportion of attendance is being maintained as it was in 1905, when the educational census was taken in that country. At that time 98 boys and 93 girls out of every 100 who were of school age were attending school, a great advance over 1873, when only 28 per cent. of the children were in school. A compulsory education system now prevails, and to this is attributed the rapid strides Japan has made in the past 20 years or more.

Professor Gilray contributes to the New Zealand "Outlook" a long and interesting article on the late Professor Masson, to whom he was assistant in Edinburgh University for several sessions. Mr. Gilray says:—"I have seen Professor Masson angry more than once, for he had plenty of righteous indignation when the occasion called for it; but I never saw him so angry as he was at the time when Froude's 'Life of Carlyle' appeared. He was so indignant that he characterized the book to me 'as an act of treachery to a dead friend's memory.'"

In a closing meeting of the great revival services in Boston, speaking of the test of the good accomplished, Dr. Channan said:—"Five thousand persons might be added to the churches, but that is not the important thing. The important thing is, will all the professed Christians act together for a better city, for righteous voting, for the suppression of vice, for the protection of the weak and tempted, and for all that is consistent with consistent Christian living? That is the real test of a revival. Under such a test the value of the meetings will have to prove itself in the coming months and years.

An English Evangelical paper says:—"The changes in the Prayer-Book recommended by the Committee of the Lower House of Convocation, while for the most part welcome, will not by any means satisfy those Churchmen who have been laboring for such a revision as will be consonant with the spirit of the Thirty-nine Articles. The retranslation of a few Psalms, alterations in certain Lessons, the addition of a few prayers, and the like, are comparative trifles. The real question which divides the Church of England is absolutely left untouched. The word 'priest' is allowed to remain, together with the Absolution, which he alone, according to the Prayer-Book, can pronounce. And the Eucharistic Vestments are practically allowed. Thus the Sacerdotal party carry off the honors. If we remember aright, it was the late Dean Farrar who said that no peace would be assured to the Church until the word 'priest' disappeared from the Prayer Book."

A number of distinguished men in different walks of life were recently asked to say to the Sunday at Home what in their opinion is the most magnificent passage in the Bible. Mr. William Watson, the poet, chose: "Whole chapters of Isaiah, such as xl and ix, are simply clusters of passages that touch the highest level of grandeur, and every kind of literary magnificence is supremely exemplified in the Bible." The most perfect elegy in all literature, Mr. Watson adds, is perhaps David's lament for Saul and Jonathan (2 Sam. i, 19-27), and at the other end of the great gamut of emotion is the song of Deborah and Barak (Judge v., 2-31), "the most superb expression of the intoxication of triumph that I know." Canon Driver chose the 40th chapter from Isaiah and the 38th and 39th from Job. Dr. Sayce the same chapter from Isaiah, but marks the "most magnificent passage" as ending with verse 17. He says that he has "no hesitation" in selecting this passage. "Get out your own Bibles and read for yourselves.

A few days ago a great united meeting, representing all the Missionary Societies working in India, was held in London. The principal speaker was Sir Andrew Fraser, K.C.S.I., late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. He was introduced to the audience as "Fraser Sahib, the man who clung to his post and did his duty in the face of bombs and bullets—did his duty as a wise and sympathetic administrator and a man of God." This was his first public appearance since his return from India, and so naturally excited much interest. His speech was in unstinted praise of missions in India. Speaking as one who had served thirty-seven years in the country, and whose duty had made him familiar with all parts of that empire, he said:—"Wherever I have been, I have made myself acquainted with the missionaries, and I claim an exceptional right to speak in regard to missions. I thank God for what I have seen in the past, and am filled with hopefulness in regard to the future." The remedy of the present unrest—an unrest that so nearly cost him his life—he said was to teach the people the doctrines and religion of Jesus Christ. "This we cannot do as a Government. We must do it as a church." Such words, from such a source, should not pass unheeded.

Master your tools and your treasure will take care of itself.