

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

It is announced that Dr. Oswald Dykes has been appointed the next Cunningham lecturer. His subject is to be "Creation and Providence."

The Missionaries' Literature Association of England, now in its fourteenth year, has sent over 450,000 periodicals to the foreign field in that time.

Fleming H. Revell, the well known publisher, says the aggregate sale of Moody's sermons has exceeded 2,500,000 copies, placing them next to the Bible as a seller.

The Marquis of Londonderry, in a speech in the House of Lords, bitterly attacked the Government, which he charged with cowardice in permitting an alleged present reign of terror in Ireland.

The death was announced last week in his eighty-sixth year, of Mr. Richard Vickers Boyle, C.S.I., the hero of the defence of the "little house at Arrah" in the Indian Mutiny. This was one of the most gallant exploits of the Mutiny.

Missionaries have been laboring in Japan for some forty years. There was some work done previous to that time, but it was then largely a time of preparation. At present there are in Japan about 55,000 Protestant Christians. The population is about 45,000,000. This leaves the enormous sum of 44,945,000 Japanese who are still strangers to salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Says The Belfast Witness: It is pleasant to note that Dr. Stubbs (Bishop of Truro) preached in the Glasgow University Chapel, thus expressing respect and fellowship between the two great Churches. Also that Canon Thomson, of Birmingham, took part in the dedicatory ceremonies in connection with the Congregational Institute founded there by Rev. J. H. Jowett. There ought to be much more of this inter-communion. The absurd stand-off exhibited by some Churchmen towards other Churchmen is enough to make the angels weep—and the devils laugh.

Japan is having her own difficulties. Just now her population is less than fifty million, and her foreign debt, at high interest, amounts to \$1,650,000,000. Her taxation now amounts to \$31.50 per head. In addition to this, the general cost of living has greatly increased within the last year or two, and this last year the price of rice, one of her staple foods, has doubled. Under these circumstances, it is small wonder that the Japanese Government is inclined to substitute a less ambitious naval programme for its original one.

Says the Morning Star of Boston: Official figures disclose the astonishing fact that 3,361 railway employees were killed in this country in 1905, the last year for which reports are available, to only 437 in Great Britain in the same year. Setting aside the difference in population the proportion killed in this country was 1 in 411 and in Great Britain 1 in 1331. Railroad employment in the United States is more perilous than the average soldier's life in active service. The chief reason for this is the greed for profits by the railway companies.

Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy, head of the Christian Scientists, secretly moved her residence from Concord, N. H., to Brookline, Mass., going by a carefully guarded special train. Newspaper reports would indicate that her new home is also carefully guarded.

Statistics indicate that the Baptists are not increasing in the British Isles. The number of churches, 3,017, is 29 more than in 1906, but the membership, 429,877, is less by nearly 5,000; the pastors, 2,133, are fewer by one and the local preachers, 5,685, are less by 63. The Sunday school scholars, 587,160, show a loss of 7,261. The loss is attributed to the reaction in Wales after the notable revival in that country.

It is not surprising that the French Government is unable to obtain much from the sale of Catholic Church property, because the Catholics, when dispossessed, carried off what they could, and depreciated the value of permanent buildings. The buildings are ill adapted to other uses, and in France most Catholics fear to purchase because of the threats of excommunication. Superstition probably prevents others from buying. The policy of the Government is to permit the use of churches for religious purposes as needed, and comparatively little property has been sold.

Reports from Stockholm, Sweden, say that serious famine conditions prevail in Northern Lapland, mainly in the iron-mining sections of the country. This was foretold last fall when heavy rains were reported from the districts of Vesterorrland and Vesterbotten in Lapland. Some wheat is raised in those sections during the short summer of continuous sunshine that prevails north of the Arctic Circle, but this and all other crops were practically destroyed by the rains. So severe are the conditions that the inhabitants of the affected section have been obliged to slaughter their dogs to get necessary food.

An influential religious journal in the United States has been making a trenchant attack on popular religion and commenting on the marked contrast between its standards and practices, and those laid down for his followers by our Lord. There can be but little doubt that the Church and the world can never be other than opponents to one another. It was so in our Lord's day. It is so now. Those nominal Christians who by teaching and practice try to prove the contrary only end in demonstrating the absolute truth of the proposition, which is not fanciful, but fundamental; that we cannot serve two masters.

Rev. Dr. Thornton has introduced at Camden Road, London, with much success, a series of lantern lectures after the evening service on one Sunday in the month. The lectures are given in the hall, which is crowded. So says an old country exchange. Dr. Thornton will be remembered by many of our readers in Toronto and Montreal. In the former city he took his Arts and Theological courses, graduating from Knox College. In Montreal he was Rev. Dr. Fleck's predecessor in the pulpit of Knox church. After leaving Canada his first charge was in Glasgow, where he labored with much success until called to Camden Road church, London.

The "Holy Ghosters" is the name of a small coterie of fanatics now operating in Philadelphia. They are especially endowed with the "gift of tongues." The speaker does not know what he is saying, neither is his gibberish intelligible to anyone else, but the tongues move right on. A gift of common sense would be a grateful interruption, says our clever contemporary, The Westminster.

In regard to the recent remarkable gathering of Christians at Shanghai, Rev. Lord Wm. Cecil lays stress upon the fact that the assembly included "Presbyterians and Episcopalians, Calvinists and Arminians, Ritualists, and Baptists." There was scarcely a word spoken which anyone could have regretted, although in other places some of the topics discussed have been fruitful of controversy. That there were lines of cleavage, the reports have shown, but all through the ten days debates perfect serenity was maintained. Yet, will it be believed this holy harmony is distasteful to the High Anglicans, whose organ, the "Church Times," finds fault, and complains that "a branch of the Apostolic Church" (namely, the Anglicans) should co-operate in the mission field with "Non-Catholic" religious Communions!

The Whitney Government deserves credit for the sharp eye they keep on their issuers of marriage licenses, remarks the Dominion Churchman. Some of the scandals of the old system are now impossible, as for example, the issue of a license without any affidavit at all; for the present Government requires the affidavit to be sent in by the issuer, and the license by the clergyman. Hon. W. J. Hanna condemns strongly in the report just issued, the practice of issuers furnishing a room for the marriage ceremony and perhaps the Government would do well to penalize the practice of issuers allowing a percentage of their fees to clergy and others who send them business. The issuer should be forced in every case as far as possible to get at the facts of the case, and to exercise a strict impartial judgment on the facts as they come out.

Speaking at the opening of a Birmingham Labour Home the other day General Booth described a recent interview which he had with Lord Rosebery on the question of the Salvation Army overseas scheme. "His lordship received me in rather a stiff and formal manner," said the General. "I have observed that a large number of the leading men are a little stiff and distant when I first enter their rooms. They are rather afraid, I fancy, that I am going to pray with them. However, his lordship thawed down, and became exceedingly friendly, and asked me very many astute questions as to the character of the people we emigrated. He had fallen into the delusion that we landed the scum of the inhabitants of our great cities on those distant shores. I said, well, my lord, I cannot guarantee that every man we send shall never have had a glass too much, or never told a fib. I cannot guarantee every man we send shall have been born with a liking for work. I cannot guarantee every man we send shall never have said a naughty word. You have to go to the House of Lords for that man. His lordship nearly jumped off his seat, and sharp as a needle said, "No, they are all archangels there."