

Dominion Presbyterian

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NOTE AND COMMENT

The Chinese of New York are raising \$25,000 to build a hospital for their race. At its head will be an American physician, with Chinese assistants.

The Great Council of the United States, Improved Order of Red Men, recently amended the laws of the order so as to prohibit membership in the future to all saloonkeepers and bartenders.

The P. E. I. Guardian modestly declares that under Provincial Prohibition Charlottetown has better hotels, more prosperous stores, better sidewalks and a happier people than under the previous regime.

The American Issue states that 65 fraternal organizations, with a membership of nearly 7,000,000, now bar liquor men from their membership. The Catholic Order of Foresters is the latest order to take this step.

The Governor of Iowa says: "Prohibition exists in 55 of the 99 counties in the State. I believe there is a continual growth of temperance sentiment, and also that the less liquor sold the better the morals."

Rev. D. D. MacLaurin, D.D., formerly pastor at Woodward avenue, Detroit, now at Greene avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y., has received a hearty and unanimous call to the Second Baptist Church, of Chicago. Dr. MacLaurin is a native of Canada, but left Ontario in early life.

The French Government has determined to carry the separation of Church and State into Algeria. Mussulmans, Catholics and Protestants will be given the same rights. The government has hitherto kept up the mosque for the Mohammedans but the expense will now be thrown upon them.

Lord Strathcona repeats his prophecy that before the end of the century Canada will be not only the dominant State in the Empire, but its food market also. Rudyard Kipling has recently made a similar prediction and to accept it requires no great stretch of the imagination. But between now and the end of the century there will be time enough for us to suffer a good many growing pains.

"This made me a Christian," said an ex-member of the Arya Samaj of India, pointing to a Bible which he held. This man, Ratn Chand, had been trained by the most pronouncedly anti-Christian sect in India. He spent about three years in their school in Lahore, preparing to preach Arya doctrines, and more especially to preach against Christianity, but in order to do this it was necessary for him to study the Bible, so no small part of his time was spent in critical study of the Bible. Later he went out as a preacher, but the living and active Word was doing its own work in his heart, dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, discerning the thoughts and intents of his heart. That which he had studied with a view to refuting was transforming and mastering his life, and a few months ago Ratn Chand was baptized. He has recently returned from the Punjab to his own native province, and is now a teacher in a training school, where young men are being equipped as pastor-teachers.

The new moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of Michigan, Rev. T. A. Scott, D.D., is a Canadian. He was born near London, Ont., but in his youthful days moved to Pennsylvania, where he was educated and admitted into the ministry of the United Presbyterian church, and has been connected with the Synod of Michigan for 18 years. The Richland church, of which he is now pastor, is one of the oldest in Southwestern Michigan.

Here is something that should receive attention from Gunus, Limited, and other enterprising houses of a similar nature: In a report to the trade and commerce department, Mr. Chesley, trade commissioner at Cape Town, South Africa, states that there is an active demand in Cape Colony for Canadian hams and bacon, which "have an excellent reputation in the South African market." The report proceeds:—"Systematic effort on the part of Canadian exporters should result in an increase in the export of pork products to South Africa."

Dr. Goldwin Smith, in The Weekly Sun, says: A preacher denounces wife desertion and divorce, prescribing the usual remedy of the lash and the gallows. The fault may not be altogether on the side of the men, nor is it certain that the lash and the gallows are the proper cure. Factory girls may be pretty and enchanting, but they do not make the best of wives. The prevalence of divorce is deplorable. If it continues there will be an end of the sanctity of marriage, and of all that depends thereon. The remedy is not the lash and the gallows, but a strict divorce court, such as they have in England, where it, at all events, keeps the evil within bounds.

The jubilee of a noted Presbyterian divine was celebrated in Halifax, N.S., recently—Rev. John Currie, D.D., for thirty-six years Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament literature in the Presbyterian College of that city. Dr. Currie was ordained and inducted into the pastoral charge of the congregation of Maitland, N. S., some fifty years ago. He labored there fourteen years, and was then called to fill the chair of Hebrew in the Presbyterian College, which he still fills. He was also presented with a cheque for \$500. Some years ago the British and Foreign Bible Society appointed him to revise their latest edition of the Hebrew scriptures, in the text of which he made several hundred emendations which were accepted. Dr. Currie was also one of the advisory board of the Standard Dictionary.

It has been decided that all the self-governing countries of the Empire shall be called "Dominions," as distinguishing them from those having no representative institutions or parliamentary government. The "Dominions" are Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Cape Colony, Natal, Newfoundland and the Transvaal, with Orange River Colony presumably to be soon added to the list. The Colonies are India, the various parts of Africa, Soudan, the West Indies, Guiana, and the many minor possessions scattered throughout the world, which to a greater or less extent are ruled from the Colonial Office till they are fitted for our status. The change in official nomenclature has not come too soon. It is a recognition that we stand not inferior to England, Scotland or Ireland, but as a self-governing nation of the great family of nations composing the British Empire.

The new United Methodist Church in England reports 180,000 members and 322,758 Sabbath school scholars, nearly twice as many members in the Sabbath schools as in the churches. But it also reports another interesting item about its workers. It has only 848 ministers for all that membership, but it has also 5,621 lay preachers.

Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts is quoted as saying that the Sundayless and Sunday-breaking nations are poor. Poor physically—Italy once and France twice in ten years, have cut down their standards for soldiers because they are not strong physically; poor mentally—they have the greatest illiteracy; poor morally—they have the most vice; poor financially—their workmen, despite longer hours per day and one more day in the week, get the lowest wages; and they are also the worst off politically, vibrating between the extremes of despotism and anarchy. This is a striking way in which to put the plea for the rest of the Sabbath. Altogether apart from the religious aspects of the Lord's Day question, it does not pay in dollars and cents, or in any other way to deprive people of their Sunday rest.

Rev. T. A. Moore, Dr. Henderson and Rev. T. A. Pitcher, representing the Methodist Church and the Lord's Day Alliance; Rev. Archdeacon Bogart and Rev. A. E. O'Meara, representing the Anglican Church, and Dr. Pidgeon and Mr. McDonnell, K.C. Kingston, representing the Presbyterian Church; Rev. Dr. Cameron, representing the Baptists, and C. Gordon Edwards, the Y. M. C. A., a few days ago waited on Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. Frank Oliver, and asked for certain moral reforms in the Yukon administration of the City of Dawson, through a better enforcement of the Criminal Code. They protested against the dance halls, which have been allowed in Dawson City since the days when it was an embryo mining camp, and against which a vigorous campaign has been conducted by the churches during the past year. The deputation asked for a more rigid restriction of the liquor traffic, and complained about the sale of "firewater" to the Indians, which they claim is having a demoralizing effect on the redmen.

Seeing that union of three of the Canadian churches has been in the air for some time, remarks the Woodstock Sentinel-Review, it is worth while taking note of the following item, from last week's Christian Guardian, dealing with a matter ament which skeptics have not overlooked making merry, in view of the late period in the world's history in which those concerned live: "At a meeting of the board of governors of the Wesleyan Theological College, held in Montreal on Tuesday evening, October 22, it was decided to ask for the resignation of Rev. Dr. Workman. We take it for granted that this action was not taken hastily, but that it represents the unprejudiced and thoughtful conclusion of the board, after a full and comprehensive consideration of the case. Any comment on this action by one not in complete touch with the whole situation might, therefore, be considered out of place. If it should prove that the action taken is prejudicial to free and honest thinking in the church, then it is greatly to be deplored, for no amount of enforced conformity will make up for these. What the result will prove probably time will best tell.