

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

A strong earthquake was recorded on the seismographs in the United States on New Year's Day. It is estimated that it occurred 2,000 miles south of Washington.

One of those knighted by King Edward VII in honor of his sixty-eighth birthday was Rev. Dr. Robertson Nicoll, editor of the "British Weekly," a religious journal of commanding ability.

The Russian Government is planning a number of additional railroads. There is room for them in a large country, but the government expects to find the capital abroad, principally in England. Lending money to Russia must be attended with considerable risk.

When a great nation meets with a great loss there are great resources of endurance: but in the first week of last month one storm cost Newfoundland fifteen lives and \$50,000. It swept all over the island and its coasts, and all the victims of the storm were native Newfoundlanders.

Sir Frederick Macmillan, a descendant of the founder of the Reformed Scotch Presbyterian Church, two hundred years ago, has just been knighted for his services as president of the National Hospital for Paralysis and Epilepsy. He is the head of the Macmillan Company, London, Toronto and New York.

The effort of the different denominations in South Africa to unite and form one strong Evangelical Church is meeting with difficulties. The Dutch Reformed Church declines to come in, and the Wesleyans think the time is not yet ripe. The Baptists, Congregationalists and Presbyterians are still working at the problem and will hold a meeting to consider the matter early in this year.

The attacks which Editor Harvey of Harper's Weekly and the North American Review is making against all reform measures that seek to abate the evils of the liquor traffic raise the suspicion that either the editor or the owner of these periodicals is under the liquor subsidy. With very few exceptions all the high-class magazines exclude liquor advertising from their columns and many of them give substantial aid to the temperance cause.

Sir A. Conan Doyle's tract on the Congo atrocities seems to be stirring up the sentiment of England to the point when something definite will be attempted. The cover of the pamphlet shows the picture of a Congo boy, maimed by the cutting off of a foot and an arm, and this motto: "I was guaranteed by you." When Great Britain realizes that the sickening crimes against the negro race in the Congo Free State are being justified by her guarantee to King Leopold the revulsion of feeling will create a demand for their stoppage.

The sixth international convention of the Student Volunteer Movement will be held at Rochester, N.Y., December 29 to January 2, 1910. The first session will open at three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, December 29, and will be under the direction of Mr. John R. Mott, who will preside at the sessions of the convention. Already about 3,000 students and professors from more than 600 colleges, theological seminaries and other institutions of learning have registered as delegates. The great foreign mission boards of the United States and Canada will be officially represented.

The Rev. Dr. John Glasse, who recently retired from the chair of Old Greyfriars Parish Church, Edinburgh, has joined the Rev. R. J. Campbell's Progressive League, and has intimated his full sympathy with the New Theology movement. This step is not likely to meet with much approval in the Church of Scotland.

It is strange to read in a Methodist Church paper that at a recent annual conference (in the United States) a report was made which represented that about forty out of eighty congregations in a certain district were without one mid-week prayer service. This deplorable state does not appear to be due to the wide separation of membership, but simply to a lack of religious interest. In a denomination distinguished for its evangelistic spirit and for the emphasis it puts on personal piety, such a showing is certainly remarkable.

The news of the execution of twenty-four Mohammedans, at Adana, for the participation in the massacres of last April, is one of the most encouraging signs of the renovation of the Turkish government, says the Herald and Presbyter. The punishment of crime is the first duty of government. While hundreds, and perhaps thousands, were guilty of the participation in the massacres, these executions will be sufficient to show the policy of the government in the future, and are a better guarantee of protection to the Armenians than any number of laws in their favor.

A correspondent from Nelson, B. C., writes to the "Guardian" of the wonderful spirit of unity prevailing in the West. Methodists were canvassed by laymen from the Anglican and Presbyterian churches. Presbyterians and Methodists in turn called on High Churchmen for their missionary subscriptions. Night after night men met on the same platform and worked together, Baptists and Congregationalists as well as the rest. Each individual canvassed was asked to name the Church in whose funds each gift was to be received for the purpose of evangelizing the world.

We find the following item in the Westminster, of Philadelphia:—The Ministerial Association listened to an interesting paper on Monday last by J. B. Edmondson, D.D., of Belvidere, N.J., on "The Second Coming of the Lord." It called forth some earnest words of favorable comment from the Revs. C. A. R. Janvier, M. J. Hyndman and others. Mr. Edmondson is well known in Ontario, where he filled several important pastorates before going to New Jersey. Last summer, when taking holidays, he preached for two Sundays in St. Paul's Church, Ottawa, by invitation, and also in St. John's, Almonte, a former charge. Whenever Mr. Edmondson returns to Canada he will receive a warm welcome.

There being no direct hereditary heir, the crown of Belgium passes to Prince Albert, the only son of Leopold's brother, the late Philippe, Count of Flanders. The new monarch was born April 8, 1875, and on Oct. 2, 1900, married Princess Elizabeth of Bavaria. They have three children, Prince Leopold, eight years old; Prince Charles, six years old, and Princess Marie-Jose, who was born August 4, 1906. Prince Albert is one of the most popular members of the reigning house of Belgium. His wife is equally popular, their home life being such as to attract the admiration and love of the people. He has travelled extensively, and is a man of affairs. In appearance he is strikingly like the late King, but their dispositions and temperaments have always been in marked contrast.

The State Superintendent of Education, New York, has ordered discontinuance of Bible reading in certain schools. This action was due to the demand of a Roman Catholic priest. It is a pity that the Church of Rome, remarks the Presbyterian Witness, should use its great influence to banish from our public schools the greatest book of the age. While she maintains such an attitude, this church cannot consistently denounce our schools as "godless."

Take it all in all, Thomas Chalmers produced the greatest effects, by sermons read to the people, in English pulpits oratory. He held Gladstone in a sermon for an hour and forty minutes. Chalmers was always cogitating these tremendous religious orations. One day he took Gladstone to a cottage by the water of Leith. "Chalmers went in with smiling countenance, greeting and being greeted by the people, and sat down. But he had neverling to say. He was exactly like the Duke of Wellington, who said of himself that he had no small talk. His whole mind was always full of some great subject, and he could not deviate from it. He sat smiling among the people, but he had no small talk for them and they had no large talk. So after some time we came away, he pleased to have been with the people, and they proud to have had the doctor with them." The big and little ministers who think they have no gift for pastoral visiting may learn something from this. To call and bear a friendly aspect is better than neglect; though friendly converse is better.

Dr. Francis E. Clark, well known everywhere, but especially loved and honored in Christian Endeavor circles, has written, after a trip through South America, an article for the North American Review, in which the South American republics are cleverly characterized. The gist of the article is reproduced as follows in The New York Sun: "Panama: The country of the great ditch. Columbia: One of the two or three comparatively hopeless and impossible nations of the southern hemisphere. Ecuador: Shows some signs of waking up from the sleep of ages. Bolivia: The isolated and turbulent,—but by no means the most backward of the South American states; she leads Venezuela and Ecuador in her efforts for education and the development of her resources. Peru: The 'Republic of Misfortune,' to-day more happy and prosperous than for four centuries, with a still brighter future before her. Chile: The 'Fortunate Republic'; her prosperity was her undoing; she grew extravagant, her 'getting-rich-quick' plans landed her in the same orifice in which they have landed many an individual; though she will doubtless regain her prestige, her ancient enemy, Peru, is to-day in better financial and industrial condition. Argentina: The story of Cinderella the Princess has been almost literally repeated in the history of this great and prosperous republic, in many respects the richest and most progressive of all. Uruguay: Has shown far more stability than her best friends believed possible from her mercurial people, and there is really a happy vista before her. Paraguay: Must be reckoned with the backward and unprogressive states. Brazil: 'The Boundless,' larger than the United States outside of Alaska, still largely an undeveloped nation, a country of illimitable resources and vast possibilities. Venezuela: The bad boy of the continent, an unprogressive, rebellious people, led by stiff-necked rulers; the whole idea of government and of the dignity of a republic must be taught to this people before it can be worthy of a place in the family of nations."