

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

The officials of the National Bible Society of Scotland have sold 8,800 copies of the Scriptures from the society's stall in the Glasgow Exhibition.

Emperor Nicholas has ordered 14,000,000 rubles to be applied to the famine fund for the relief of people in the districts in Russia in which crops have failed.

In Egypt, under British rule, one can now go anywhere with perfect safety, and the fellah has never been so well off since the time of the earliest Pharaoh, and probably never in all their history.

Bulgarian brigands have kidnapped Miss Ella H. Stone, the American missionary in Turkey. Word from her states that she is well treated. 25,000 Turkish pounds are asked as a ransom. The money is being raised for the ransom.

Edison has patented a new storage battery which promises to accomplish quite as much for electrical development as the telephone did. Little is yet known about it, but it is said to be only half the weight of the present batteries, and it is not a lead accumulator.

The Printing machines in the Glasgow International Exhibition are being utilized by Drummond's Tract Depot, Stirling, to print over a quarter of a million striking Gospel tracts, which are distributed free to the visitors. Each tract bears a picture of Stirling Castle, and is most attractive in appearance.

In Cape Colony a new proclamation places under military law the few districts hitherto exempted. These are Cape Town, Simons Town, Port Elizabeth and East London, all important ports. The constitution, therefore, is now suspended over the entire colony.

On October 13, the Chinese plenipotentiaries forwarded to the Spanish Minister, who is the doyen of the diplomatic corps, a bond for 459,000,000 taels, the amount of the indemnity to be paid to the foreign Powers. This is the last official act of the peace negotiations.

The King and Queen and the Court will attend the morning service at Crathie Church on the three Sundays which they are expected to spend at Balmoral, and it is understood that the special preachers before their Majesties will be Principal Story, Dr. Cameron Lees, Dean of the Order of the Thistle; and Dr. Macgregor, St. Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh.

The Chinese officials at Peking are considering the desirability of protesting to the foreign Ministers against the conduct of the Legation guards. The soldiers continue to treat the Chinese like a conquered people. Groups of soldiers roam about the city wearing their side arms, often intoxicated, maltreating the natives and committing petty robberies.

The Society of German Engineers in Berlin has undertaken the preparation of an international technical dictionary to be published in English, French and German. Its aim is to secure exhaustive completeness in technical words and expressions, exactness in transition, and uniformity in usage.

The city of New York contains twice as many Irish as any city in Ireland, and a greater number of Germans than any city in Germany, with the sole exception of Berlin. Many thousands of its inhabitants cannot speak English. Only twenty per cent. are of New York descent.

Regarding past Presidents of the United States, it is interesting to note their national origin. Three, Washington, Madison, and Lincoln, were English; four, M'Kinley, Monroe, Grant, and Hayes, were of Scottish origin; Buchanan, Polk, Jackson, and Arthur were of a mixed Scotch-Irish origin; Van Buren, like Roosevelt, was of Dutch descent; while Jefferson, whom some one has called "the noblest Roman of them all," was a Welshman. Abraham Lincoln has the distinction of having been the tallest, while the late Benjamin Harrison is believed to have been the shortest.

The Prime Minister of Holland, Dr. Abraham Kuyper, is the first Doctor of Divinity and preacher to hold that position. In the British House of Commons during the last decade several former divines have attained eminence. Thus, the Right Hon. H. A. Acland, who was a member of the cabinet of 1892-1895, is an ex-clergyman of the Church of England, and served at one time as curate under Dr. Creighton, the late Bishop of London. So, too, Dr. Robert Wallace was a former Divinity Professor in the University of Edinburgh.

Some stories of "Ian MacLaren" appear in the "People's Friend." One has to do with his trip to the Holy Land. As he was nearing the centre of historic Palestine he met an American who was making all haste to get away. After a few greetings, such as two English-speaking men meeting in a foreign country might exchange, the American asked Dr. Watson where he was going. "To Jerusalem," was the reply. "Jerusalem!" exclaimed the American, in tones of unfeigned disgust. "You don't want to go there! I've just come away. It's a slow town. Why, there isn't a daily newspaper in the whole place!"

Another is to the effect that one day a tall, thin, alert man followed his card into "Ian MacLaren's" study with such rapidity that he had barely time to read it before his visitor was in the room. "My name is Elijah K. Higgins, and I am a busy man. You are also busy, and have no time to fool away. Four days is all I can give to the United Kingdom, and I wished to shake hands with you. Good-bye, I am off to Drumtochty." He left the room so swiftly that "Ian MacLaren" only overtook him at the front door. When he asked him if he knew where Drumtochty was, "Guess I do," he said. "Got the route in my pocket, north-west from Perth, N. B."

There has been erected in Hawick Church a brass tablet with marble moulding in memory of the late Rev. Dr. MacRae, who was the minister of the congregation from 1843 till 1892—nearly fifty years. Dr. MacRae was the founder of the Blantyre Mission in Central Africa.

The Russian newspapers in St. Petersburg are now advising Japan "to forget Corea" and console herself by seizing Chinese territory on the mainland opposite Formosa. One of the papers says that "Russia asks nothing of Japan except renunciation of her claims in Corea." Russian papers now frankly avow the intention to seize not only Manchuria, but Corea and Mongolia—practically half the territory China controlled at the beginning of the war. She does not desire complete possession all at once, only as fast as she can garrison and control it. In the meantime, she intends to drive Japan out of Corea.

A Chicago paper enumerates a few of the more unusual among the vocations of women in the United States. A lady living in South Dakota conducted an apple orchard for many years with such success that the Department of Agriculture recently thought it worth while to publish its biography. Another, living near Lake Champlain, has a "duck ranche" on which 1,500 ducklings are reared annually, and a "bee ranche" has been started in addition. A stalwart young woman of Sherburn, Massachusetts, took up her father's business as blacksmith at his death, and, apparently regarding this labour as insufficient, supplemented it by acting as mail carrier.

For the last two years extensive additions and alterations have been in operation at the ancient Cathedral of Brechin. Work was commenced in January of last year, and has been carried on without cessation, and it is expected that the Cathedral will be reopened in November. The north and south walls have been taken down, and the building considerably widened, while the gallery in the interior has been removed altogether. Fourteen memorial windows in stained glass have been erected in the chancel, which has been extended backwards about thirty feet. The windows depict the life of Christ before and after his public ministry.

In Tokyo, special meetings were held in churches, homes, halls and streets, according to a carefully planned campaign, from May 12 to July 6. Printed announcements were distributed, hymn leaflets and tracts were circulated, the preaching was simple and direct in the language of the masses, appeals were made for personal decision, and after meetings were held for the guidance of inquirers. Reports made to the central committee show that 5,319 persons made confession of Christ. The co-operation of all bodies of Christians, the simplicity of the message, the earnestness of the leaders and the use of the open Bible, have made a profound impression. This movement was initiated by the Japanese themselves, of course, warmly supported by the missionaries.—Congregationalist.