

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

Sir Alfred Lyall has undertaken the task of preparing the Life of the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava.

Artificial eyes were first used by the Egyptians long before the Christian era. Mummies have been found with artificial optics. They were fashioned in gold, silver, copper or ivory.

A large number of people in the capital of Kolapur, India, on seeing a motor car for the first time, prostrated themselves before it, declaring that it was moved by an invisible god.

Japan furnishes one twelfth of the raw silk consumed in the world—about 9,000,000 pounds. The war is not likely to effect the production, as all the work is done by women and girls.

The census of India for 1901 shows that the growth of Christianity has been comparatively far more rapid than the growth of the general population. In 1882 the Christians in India numbered 1,506,098, of whom 1,246,288 were natives. In 1901 the Christians numbered 2,923,241, of whom 2,664,313 were natives.

On a draft of the proposed Gaelic Hymnal being submitted to the Established Presbytery of Kintyre, it was severely criticised. Fault was even found with the name of the book, "Laoidheadain Gaihlilig," which was said to mean not a composition but a composer of Gaelic hymns. This was very hard on the committee who had had charge of the matter.

About twenty thousand summonses to passive resisters have been issued, to which many more are being added, says Rev. John Clifford, D.D., who is president of the Passive Resistance League of England and Wales. But the cry comes up from all over the land, "No compromise." Dr. Clifford thinks "the fight will be long and the needs great."

Owing to a heavy port charges at Beirut and relatively high rates on the Lebanon Railway during the harvest, some 4,000 to 6,000 camels, each with a burden of 500 pounds of grain, daily pass between the interior of Syria and the sea via Nazareth. The camel driver, however, claims half of the load as his reward, and the farmer, after paying taxes for seed, etc., has scant compensation.

In Yokohama is a large Christian printing company which has 120 persons in its employ, and all these are gathered every Monday morning for a religious service before beginning the work of the week. The manager is an elder in the Presbyterian church, and the company has a large business not only through Japan but in Korea, China, and the Philippine Islands.

The Rev. Principal Story, in moving an overture to the Assembly in the Glasgow Presbytery regarding the proper celebration of the fourth centenary of the birth of John Knox, said that the modern Scottish nation was born in 1505, the year of Knox's birth, and mentioned that there was a proposal to erect a monument in St. Giles's Church as near as possible to the pulpit from which John Knox preached.

Henry Austin Clapp, the leading dramatic critic of New England, died at his home in Boston recently. He was graduated at Harvard in 1860, and in 1887 was appointed clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court in Boston. For thirty years he was the dramatic critic for the Boston Advertiser, and for the last two years held a similar position on the Boston Herald. Two years ago he published his "Reminiscences of a Dramatic Critic," which covered practically all the great achievements of the American stage.

M. LOUBET, the French President, has completed his mission to Italy, and without recognising the Pope as a temporal Potentate. When King Edward visited the Vatican it was chiefly as a social courtesy. No misconception could arise in connection therewith. But the French Republic is at present engaged in a deadly strife with the Roman Catholic Orders and associations. For the President to pay a State visit to the Pope would have certainly complicated his Government, and created misunderstanding in Europe. As things are now, we may be well pleased that Italy and France are on good terms as political States—one more guarantee for the peace of Western Europe.

An Evangelistic Council has been formed in London, Eng. The Council is composed of prominent laymen, who are to have the hearty co-operation of the ministers of all denominations. The plans adopted by the council include immediate, systematic and continuous evangelistic efforts in different parts of London, and early in 1902, a united mission to be led by Dr. Torrey and Mr. Alexander, to be followed by other plans of evangelization. The Christian Intelligence suggests the organization of such a council for greater New York. Why should not all large cities have organizations to promote systematic and continuous evangelistic work?

The Lord Mayor of London, presiding at the Mansion House recently over the annual meeting of the association for stopping the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday, expressed the opinion that no public house should be allowed to trade on a Sunday under any circumstances. When shall we see mayors of Canadian cities taking such a stand in favor of temperance reform? One gratifying feature of the temperance campaign in Great Britain is that it is bringing Anglican and Non-conformist ministers together on the same platform. At the Mansion House meeting the speakers were the Bishops of Kensington and St. Albans, Rev. John Watson, D.D., (Ian McLaren) and Rev. R. J. Campbell, the late Dr. Parker's successor at the City Temple.

The peace of God is not something that he puts into your hearts and that you must keep that it may keep you. If the peace of God is to rule my heart it is because the God of peace himself is there.—Andrew Murray.

We quote the following from the Belfast Witness of a recent date: Dr. Dowie, who calls himself a reincarnation of John the Baptist, has met with a very bad reception in Australia. He went there with a boastful programme. But we are told the intelligent in Australia have ridiculed him, the business men have declined to deal with him, and the rabble have given him in more than one place "a bad quarter of an hour." His appearance in Adelaide was the signal for an outbreak of violence, to suppress which it was necessary to call in the aid of mounted troopers, and in Sydney he was only rescued from the rough treatment of the mob by the strenuous efforts of the police. The creature is hardly worth powder and shot. But what must the state of religion be in America when such a man can gather a large following, and enrich himself at the expense of his dupes?

The Religious Tract Society have issued a remarkably complete shilling addition of John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress." The author made many alterations in the various editions published during his lifetime, and the text of this latest attractive edition has been carefully collected with the one finally revised by the author, and published in the year in which he died. The little volume which the Tract Society has put upon the market is as complete as it is accurate. The letterpress is admirable, and the eight colored pictures are from a set of specially drawn illustrations from Harold Copping. It is an interesting fact, as showing the universal suitability of Bunyan's allegory, that missionaries have translated and the Religious Tract Society has prepared editions in no fewer than 104 languages and dialects.

Stamp collectors have been surprised by the announcement that another 2d. Mauritius stamp has been discovered. This stamp is one of the most valuable stamps in the world, and was discovered in a most remarkable way in the collection of a Glasgow gentleman. He has not collected since 1864, but still keeps his old albums as a memory of boyhood. The other day a lady was looking through them, when she suddenly came across what she at once recognized as a stamp worth a fortune. Experts were at once communicated with, and her opinion was confirmed. The stamp is now in a frame by itself, and in a well-known auctioneer's strongest safe. This particular stamp is so valuable because, owing to a mistake of the engravers, it was imprinted with the words "post office" instead of "post paid." The issue was hastily withdrawn, and but a few are now extant. The auctioneers, it is said, have already received several private offers of £1,000 for the stamp, but they are sanguine it will realize far more than this at the public sale.—St. James's Gazette.