

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

The British Museum has been enriched by a complete set of Kruger coinage from the Pretoria mint.

A curious accident occurred recently in a feather bed factory in New York. The feathers got whirling so rapidly that the friction set them on fire.

Lord Curzon estimates that the Indian famine has destroyed half a million lives, cost fifty millions in value of crops, while seven millions have been spent in relief.

The people of the United States use more meat than the people of any other nation, excepting, perhaps, Canada. Britain ranks next and the other countries come far below.

The censorship is a very real thing in China. There anyone who writes an immoral book is punished with 100 blows of the heavy bamboo and banishment for life. Anyone who reads it is also punished.

Ruskin said: "What is right is most effectively when most kindly advocated, and what is true most convincingly when least passionately asserted." Evidently our political orators have not learned this.

The Provincial Government of Newfoundland has been sustained (like all the other governments which have at this time made an appeal to the popular vote), and Premier Bond's victory appears complete.

From 1811 to 1816 Java belonged to England, which gave it up out of ignorance of its value. Little Holland has retained for three centuries a colonial empire as large as France, and with a population of 6,000,000.

Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., leader of the Conservative party in Canada, has announced his intention to retire from public life and spend his few remaining years with his family. He has reached his 80th year.

Mr. Hugh Guthrie, of Guelph, Ont., who has been elected to Parliament, is a young lawyer, and a son of the well known counsel, Mr. Donald Guthrie, Q. C., and nephew of Principal Mac Vicar, of the Montreal Presbyterian Church.

While in Toronto the other day Lord Strathcona was urged to use his influence on the British Parliament to have a Marriage Bill introduced which would make marriage anywhere in the British Empire valid in all British possessions.

Queen Victoria has given her permission to Sir William MacCormac to accept and wear the Kaiser Wilhelm Commemoration Medal, bestowed upon him by the German Emperor in recognition of services rendered in the war of 1870-71.

Paris is said to be the cleanest city in the world. Every morning 2000 male and 600 female scavengers, divided into 149 brigades, turn out to perform the toilet of the capital. The men work from 4 in the morning till 4 in the evening, less two hours for meals, or 10 hours a day. The women are engaged in the morning only.

Here are some astounding figures. The London school board is responsible for the education of a population more than double that of Denmark or Greece, and larger than that of Scotland. The children of London outnumber the total population of any European city except five. The sum spent on elementary education in London is equal to the entire government expenses of either Norway, Denmark, or Sweden.

No one will welcome more heartily than devout Bible lovers the latest discovery, by Professor Hilpecht, of a Babylonian library of 28,000 tablets. They are older than Abraham, and will doubtless add confirmatory testimony to the truth of the Hebrew records.

Principal Robert Rainy, D. D., who has been appointed the first Moderator of the newly formed United Free Church of Scotland, was among the first in 1873 to advocate the union which has taken place of the United Presbyterian and the Free Churches of Scotland.

Lots of men who think they are smart enough to succeed Charles M. Hays as manager of the Grand Trunk Railway, are not regarded as satisfactory occupants of the small posts they are now in. A man must be big, not feel big, to get a big position. Says the Toronto Star.

According to a recent statement the best guardian for poultry is a Scotch collie. It is readily taught to guide ducks, geese, etc., to their feeding grounds, and bring them back. The collie, it appears, takes a lively interest in the work, and his courage makes him a good protector.

About two thousand boys and girls of the Philadelphia public schools are now taught ambidexterity, or the equal use of both hands. The experiment will be watched with great interest, and is of profound importance. The universal use of both hands would add incalculably to human power and welfare.

They are building a new church in St. Petersburg, under the title of the Resurrection, and the main door, which is to be entirely of silver, will weigh 900 lbs. It will cost about £5,000, and is the gift of one of the University professors, says the "Novosti," and it will be named "The Czar's Door." The style will be eighth century Russian.

That is a horrible story that comes from Denver, Colorado, of the burning at the stake of a negro boy who had confessed to murdering a white girl. Think of a mob of hundreds of people born and educated in a Christian land, participating in the awful deed and gloating over the sufferings of the wretched victim! What a thin veneer is our boasted civilization? And yet, says the Hamilton Times, we look down with horror and indignation on the Chinese "Boxers."

A large section of the Disciple body is breaking away from one of the most dangerous features of Alex Campbell's teaching. We refer to that which denies any direct action of the Holy Spirit upon men's hearts, and reduces divine operation to the natural effect of truth. This leads to the belief that mental assent to truth is sufficient. It is said, also, that this change of belief is leading to some friction in the Disciple body. Those who have rejected the older belief say that Alex Campbell also gave it up before his death, and that his later writings reflect this change of position.

A message has been received here, says the N. Y. Scottish American, stating that the Rev. G. Campbell Morgan, of London, had accepted the offer to come to this country as a successor to the late D. L. Moody, but the authenticity of the message is not vouched for. W. R. Moody, the late Mr. Moody's son, went to England to confer with Mr. Morgan in relation to the project recently, and a week ago a cable despatch was received from him saying that Mr. Morgan would come here for a stay of six months at least. The message received this week states that if Mr. Morgan accepted his plans would be to devote four months in each year to lecturing to the Northfield divinity students, four months to an evangelical campaign, and four months to rest and recreation.

The Toronto Sentinel very properly remarks: "If we did not succeed as we expected at the general elections, or if we did succeed even beyond our expectations, let us put aside our party strife now and remember that Canada is greater than all political parties."

The Ontario Government has done a popular and proper thing in offering grants of 160 acres of land to soldiers, who, at the time of their enlistment to go to South Africa, were residents of that province. The land so granted is to be relieved of all settlement duties and provincial and municipal taxation, except for school purposes, for a period of ten years. If such land, is, however, transferred to any other person, within said period of ten years, then the ordinary laws shall apply. All claims must be filed within two years from the 1st of January, 1901.

The race feeling, which has played its part in the elections, says the Monetary Times, has been developed unduly and for political ends. The race feeling in the Province of Quebec is mainly one of brotherhood in origin, and does not go to the extent of creating a desire to share the political institutions of France. In foreign politics a large party in Quebec sympathize with France, and here a majority of the British population of Ontario imagines danger to lurk. This accounts for the different results of the elections in the two provinces. Let us hope it will not lead to the revival of the cry of "French domination." One way to guard against this evil will be for the government to do nothing which will justify such a cry by way of complaint.

In answer to an enquirer in Manitoba as to the projected establishment of a Canadian Mint, we have seen the following language attributed in a despatch to Hon. Mr. Fielding, the Minister of Finance. Said that gentleman: "We have obtained the consent of Her Majesty's Government to, if we wish, go ahead with the projected branch of the Royal British Mint, and we may make not only our own coins without limit, but also British sovereigns, which will thus pass as current the world over. I anticipate that in the next session negotiations will be so advanced that we will only need to pass the necessary legislation." The scheme is said to embrace also the assay offices, so as to retain Klondike and British Columbian gold in Canada. Leading Canadian bankers have declared against the scheme.

The progress toward settlement on a basis of peace in China promises to be slow, as it is the purpose of the different nations that their shall be unanimous agreement on the course adopted, and the details have to be submitted by the foreign ministers to their governments for approval. The punishment of those concerned in the outrages has been under discussion, and an early agreement on this point is expected. It is apparently settled that Prince Tuan will be banished instead of beheaded. Agreement on the question of indemnities is expected without referring the matter to arbitration, as this could be done only by unanimous consent, which might not be readily given. Three other prominent matters are to be decided. One of these relates to the Dowager Empress. Most of the nations are resolved that in some way she shall be permanently shut out from sharing in the government. Another question is in regard to the means of raising a fund for the payment of the indemnities. The internal revenue might be large enough for the purpose; but, owing to the dishonesty of the officials that handle it, only a very small part reaches the government. The Chinese representatives, therefore, favor doubling the maritime customs, which are now pledged to Russia, Germany and England as security for loans. The treaties that have been in force provide only for a five per cent duty payable in silver; but, owing to the depreciation of silver, the government receives in this way only about half of what was expected. It is suggested that China be allowed to double the amount of duty, or require that it be paid in gold.