

Dominion Presbyterian

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

At Oxford, England, a firm of Christian shipbuilders is constructing "The Endeavour," the mission ship which Baptist Endeavorers in England have provided for use on the Congo.

The Presbyterian Congregations of Merigonish and French River, Pictou Co., N. S., have adopted the individual communion cups, to the entire satisfaction of all present at recent communion services.

It is stated that in Great Britain 75 per cent of all cases of pauperism is due to drink, and in Germany 90 per cent. In Germany drink leads to 1,000 cases of suicide every year and supplies the lunatic asylums with something like 2,000 victims.

At Stirling, Presbytery recently a letter was read from Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Callander, notifying the Court of his acceptance of a professorship in Knox College, Toronto. Rev. R. McIntosh, Alva, remarked that Dr. Kennedy's going away would be a serious loss for them, as well as for the congregation of Callander.

The news comes from Los Angeles that Francis Murphy, that veteran Gospel temperance evangelist, is on his deathbed at his home near Los Angeles, Cal. He is seventy years old, and has devoted practically fifty years of his life to temperance work.

In California it is found that peach stones burn as well as the best coal and give out more heat in proportion to weight. Large quantities of the stones taken out of the fruit that is tinned or dried are collected and sold. Apricot stones also burn, but not so well as peach stones, and do not command so high a price.

It is said that there are in London about 2,000 charitable institutions and organizations to advance the cause of progressive and advanced civilization. The number includes large and small institutions, affording more or less relief to the afflicted and those in distress. They are supported almost entirely by personal contributions.

Judge Wofford, of the criminal court of Kansas City, Mo., sentencing a man to two years in the penitentiary for stealing, which crime was committed when under the influence of liquor, said: "Four-fifths of the time of this court is taken up with crimes caused by whiskey. The greatest evil that now affects this country is the abuse of whiskey. Every day men are swimming to the penitentiary through whiskey."

The London Christian says concerning the gospel temperance work by the Rev. Dr. J. Q. A. Henry in Great Britain: "The eloquent American has wisely sought to make his meetings more definitely evangelistic, with a marked increase of usefulness." That is the need. It is the evangel, the good news, that the world needs; and nothing else will win and transform. Herein is power. Herein is life.

It is cheering to see the Cumberland Presbyterian, to see how steadily forward goes the prohibition march. The liquor business is being tabooed in all respectable quarters. The great commercial enterprises have taken a firm stand against it, and the railroad companies have for a long time prohibited their men from the evil. Now comes the cheering word that the sale of liquors has been prohibited in the Wabash depot at Pittsburg. The order was made by Mr. George Gould.

Dr. Grenfell, the heroic missionary on the Labrador coast to the scattered fisherfolk, says: "The Esquimaux are all Christians. The Moravian missionaries converted them long ago. In general morality I should say they rank higher than most Christian communities. Christianity is a saving influence with them; but for it I am sure they would have been extinct long ago from the vices that follow trade." The Esquimaux region is far north of the field which Mr. Grierson of Halifax is to occupy for the next twelve months or more.

The Herald and Presbyter gives utterance to the following vigorous denunciation: "For the Portland Exposition to open its gates on the Sabbath is a deplorable mistake. No matter whether a considerable portion of the community call for it or not, it is a plain defiance of the Almighty. No matter whether or not the Exposition shall be a financial success, it is an act of glaring disobedience of the divine law. It is condemned by Christian people because it is contrary to the commandment given us from heaven. Do not the running of Sunday trains and all unnecessary work on Sunday come under the same category?"

The St. Petersburg "Slovo" on June 14 published an interview with M. Witte, President of the Committee of Ministers, that is surprising in its plain speech and gloomy foreboding. "Nothing that Russia has gone through," he said, "is surprising. I gave warning in due time that only matchwood of Rojevsky's squadron would reach Vladivostok. In a word, I justly earned the designation of a croaking crow. I do not see that affairs have yet taken a turn which makes my services desirable. I will say more—even now I cannot observe a definite desire to change the direction of the current. The bed of the onrushing stream remains the same. Only the obstacles in its path grow more numerous, and foaming rapids indicate the danger points. As for peace, Japan will not be willing to discuss a basis which would not insure peace for at least fifty years. Her conditions doubtless have also considerably increased."

It is said of Tennyson that the secret of his continued inspiration was the reverence and seriousness with which he regarded his work and calling. But so it is not only with poets; all successful men, writers, scientists, preachers, doctors, yea, and all humble handiworkers and laborers find success and satisfaction in their work in proportion as they reverence their calling and take it gravely, seriously. So with the Christian. He must regard his high and holy calling; he must not count the blood of the covenant wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing. He must reverently accept the honor and love the Father has bestowed upon him in calling him a child of God. He must reverence his own body, for it is made the temple of God's Spirit; and if any defile the temple of God, him will God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple we are. In continual reverence and godly fear we shall find continual inspiration and strength.

The Pacific Presbyterian notes a striking exemplification of the objectionable features of the Chinese exclusion law of the United States. A prominent Chinese in Seattle, one who has lived on Puget for twenty-three years, has been held for some time in the detention shed at Sumas on the British Columbia border. This man, Ah Jim, was on his way home from a business trip to China. He had been back there six times before and had re-entered the United States, each time without much difficulty. But this time some over-zealous customs officials decided to make him run the gauntlet of

prejudice and refuse him admittance. Prominent citizens in Seattle who have known him for years testified as to his identity and right to enter, but at last accounts he was still detained. Ah Jim has for many years been connected with prominent Chinese mercantile houses on Puget Sound, and has property in Seattle which is worth not less than \$30,000.

One half the Church of England is anxious to get rid of the Athanasian Creed, because they no longer believe it; the other half are organizing means and methods for preserving the creed as a "Catholic" document. The objection of Presbyterians and many other Christians is not to its Trinitarian doctrine, which we also hold, but to its Greek metaphysics, and far more to its ex-cathedra judgments of everlasting doom to all persons who cannot accept all its clauses. When we see the trouble over that creed in the Episcopal Communion we may be thankful it is no concern of ours.

Now that Tibet's isolation seems doomed, it becomes the British Bible Society to look after it and print a Bible in the Tibetan sign-words. That Bible is needed to supplant the Tibetan so-called "Bible," which consists of 1,038 books, containing 1,000 pages each. Every Volume weighs ten pounds, and forms a package twenty-six inches long, eight inches broad and eight inches deep. This "Bible" requires a dozen yaks for its transport, and carved wooden blocks from which it is printed needs rows of houses, like a city, for their storage. A tribe of Mongols paid 7,000 oxen for a copy of this "Bible." In addition to the Bible there are 225 volumes of commentaries, which are necessary for its understanding. There are also a large collection of the revelations which supplant the Bible.

We have referred several times to the number of priests in France, as well as in Austria, who are breaking away from Rome. The "Christian Work and Evangelist" calls attention to the character of their letters of "démision," a large part of one of which it quotes. In a letter addressed to his bishop by the Abbe Boisseau, the Abbe says: "As a child I had a naive belief in the Catholic religion. As a youth the object of my studies was to become a priest. As a Levite, burning with zeal, kneeling at the foot of the cross, in the solitude of my cell, I have often wished to die as a martyr to my faith. The martyrdom has come, but under another form. It came in the day when study, reflection, and experience, turning my ideas towards that free examination which has been excommunicated by infallible dogma, proved to me that the church of the Syllabus has withdrawn itself from the spirit of Christ, and has become by its varying and human doctrines an institution which enslaves rather than delivers the conscience." The "Chretien Français" reports a French archbishop as saying: "A third of my priests believe neither in a personal God nor in the existence of the soul. Another third deny the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. And the rest of you, priests? demanded the interlocutor of the prelate. The rest do not think at all."

The Home Office has instructed Scottish bailies to detain prisoners in custody a reasonable time to see if they can collect their fine before sending them to prison.

A strong mind should ever keep company with a kind heart so that strength may be tempered with mercy.