

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment

A commission of 16 members, representing all parties among Christians and Mohammedans, has been appointed to prepare a draft constitution with regard to the Government of Crete. The Commission will possess consultative, but not administrative functions.

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A young Englishman, Mr. A. B. Lloyd, has reached home after a remarkable journey in Central Africa, including the great pigmy forest mentioned by Mr. H. M. Stanley. Mr. Lloyd had no difficulty with the natives and never fired a shot in self-defence.

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Mr. Clements, veterinary surgeon to the Ameer of Afghanistan has arrived in India, and says that the Ameer is in a bad state of health, and cannot be expected to live long. Mr. Clements states that letters of British residents in Kabul are frequently intercepted and confiscated.

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Albury, in Surrey, is the Mecca of Irvingism. There is the "apostles" chapel; there a colony of believers gathers round it; and there still lives the last survivor of the Irvingite "apostles"—Mr. Francis Valentine Woodhouse, who is now the father of the Bar as well as the last of the "Apostles."

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It is stated that there is a vacant church in Philadelphia which pays its pastor \$1200 a year, and has the names of a hundred candidates under consideration. As this is not a Methodist church, it indicates that something more than itineracy prevails in some other denominations.

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The state of matters in the Theological Faculty of the Aberdeen University is not very reassuring. There are only thirteen students in Divinity, and the first year has a single solitary student. That has twice happened in the Aberdeen Free Church College, but is a new thing in the University. All over, there are fewer candidates for the ministry and a higher standard of scholarship than ever. The Free Church College of Aberdeen has six students, and two of them are graduates with honors.

Baroness Hirsch has recently demonstrated as marked a business ability in the right use of wealth as her husband displayed in accumulating and spending it. She has given \$100,000 to establish a home for Jewish convalescents of the London Hospital, and \$20,000 to save 400 Russian Jewish families from starvation, and provide for their emigration.

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The tercentenary of Cromwell's birth will (says the Free Church Chronicle) probably be celebrated by a monster demonstration at Huntingdon, where he was born. The council of the county is giving its close attention to the matter. The Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Sandwich, will be asked to preside at an open-air meeting in the Market Square. In the morning a sermon will be preached by some prominent Free Church minister.

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In Le Soleil Paul Louis is writing a series of articles on the license laws. Speaking of the legislators, he says: "After having thoroughly studied it, they will, we are convinced, be able to draw out of this study a broad, efficient regulation which will figure honorably in our provincial statutes, paralyze drunkenness, enrich the treasury and prove to the sister provinces that if Quebec will not submit to the tyranny of prohibition, it understands the value of temperance, and knows how to support it without outrageous liberty." To all of which we say: "Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished."

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The Bombay Gazette has a long and most favorable notice of Principal Fairbairn's visit to Bombay. He had a most cordial reception from the native leaders in the Great Western City of India, and his lectures have evidently made a deep impression. "The lectures," says The Gazette, "were not read; they were spoken without a note or manuscript and with a fervor of eloquence and simplicity of expression that are not often found in combination, and thus delivered they were doubly impressive. The characteristic note of brotherliness which marked every appeal to the thought of the hearers was an additional charm, and Mr. Chandavarkar never said a truer thing than when he spoke of Principal Fairbairn as representing in this attitude the conscience of the nation that rules over India. If

this attitude had only been assumed for the special purposes of the moment it might have had little significance; but, as is well known, Principal Fairbairn is associated in public life in England with that section of the British people that places duty and responsibility foremost in its conception of its relation to this country, and truly interprets that higher side of British policy that alone has made Britain's rule in India permanent and beneficial to the Empire."

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A correspondent writes: At one of the meetings of the Diocesan Synod of the Anglican Church held last week in Montreal, one of the speakers, Mr. McCord, described the ideal Sabbath as, in his judgment, 'reaching the model of the Scotch Presbyterians, when all frivolity and levity were put away, when the spirit was receptive to the sacred influences of the calm and holy day, and when the beauty of holiness was understood and felt by the soul in the worship of Almighty God.' A discussion followed in which various speakers gave their views on the needless facilities given by the railway and street car companies for Sabbath breaking. There is one way in which the sanctity of the Sabbath is openly violated in the streets of the city, which should be put down at once by the strong hand of the law, the selling, and the crying for sale of newspapers on the Sabbath mornings. Herein probably the most professedly religious city in the world the eyes and ears of passers-by are assailed by the sight and sound of boys and girls selling and openly crying out for sale a local paper and New York Sunday journals. Ought these things to be? Is a Sunday newspaper a necessity in Montreal? Is the open crying of papers on streets on Sabbath morning decent? Poor children, sent out, no doubt, by brutal, heartless parents into the cold and dark of the streets on these winter mornings, to earn a few cents, to be spent in drink or dissipation later in the day. Is there no God-fearing Alderman, no Senator, no Magistrate among us, who will raise his voice to stop this public nuisance and protect the lambs of the flock for which our Lord laid down His life, and by whose resurrection the hope of Immortality, which through long centuries had burned in the breast of Patriarch and Prophet, had its vision fulfilled on the first day of the week.