

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

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## Note and Comment.

Knox, the newly organized Presbyterian congregation at Glace Bay, C. B., has cabled Rev. Wm. Meikle, evangelist, to be pastor. The salary promised is \$1200 with manse.

It is proposed to construct a railway from Halifax on the Palestine coast to the Sea of Gennesareth, taking in Nazareth and other towns in Galilee. It will be controlled by Germans.

Twenty years ago there were 22 ministers and missionaries with 1,153 communicants in connection with the Presbyterian church in the North West. To day there are 400 ministers and missionaries with a membership of 23,000 while from 40 to 50 new fields requiring workers were organized last year.

Last year the contributions of the Methodist church in Canada to Missions, Home and Foreign, amounted to the very handsome sum of \$330,347. The Guardian expresses the hope that soon half a million dollars shall be the mark aimed at. The contributions of Presbyterians in Canada last year amounted to \$270,000. Presbyterians will have to do some hustling.

Rev. Dr. Torrey and his singing companion, Mr. Alexander, some time ago returned to Great Britain, where they are now carrying on a vigorous evangelistic campaign. The London Presbyterian says they "have done a great work in Liverpool," adding "In every place where these evangelists have been a certain robustness seems to characterize their converts. That indicates work which will last."

When Stanley passed through the African territory from east to west and came out by the Congo to the Atlantic ocean, he said that the natives of the Congo basin were more like demons than like human beings. To-day there is a church of 2,000 members at Banza Manteka, and every member of the church is pledged to total abstinence from intoxicants.

The Basuto Mission, (South Africa), a jewel in the crown of French Protestantism, has now 14,163 souls in membership, of whom no less than 1,492 were added during the year. There are also 7,352 candidates for baptism throughout the country, and 12,734 children at school. The whole population of Basutoland amounts to 272,770. Last year, by the aid of the London Auxiliary for the support of native Basuto evangelists, no fewer than 27 new out-stations were started.

The Southwestern Presbyterian has the following: "Another heart-warmer came to us the other day. It was a letter from a noble Texas woman, apologizing for her delay in paying for the paper, appreciating its waiting, and as a proof of her kind feeling paying not only for the past but for nearly two years to come! If the patrons of all papers knew how much pleasure they give by such words and acts they would feel well

rewarded for their thoughtfulness." "Heart-warmer" is a unique phrase. It will appeal powerfully to many a harassed newspaper man.

A short time ago a letter was received in Montreal from Rev. W. R. McKay, who went out as a Presbyterian missionary to Macao, China, a little over a year ago. The letter told of open doors in that the need for more missionaries and money. Aid was urged on behalf of a city of 100,000 people, where are found 100 Christians, who have themselves raised some \$1,500, and have asked him to occupy the field, and with half as much more in addition erect a church, school and missionary's rooms. Mrs. McKay is teaching the daughter of the famous reformer, Kang Yu Wei. There is no failure of missionary work among the Chinese, either in Canada or China.

Early in October a Chinaman in Montreal had both feet cut off by a street car, owing to his having accidentally fallen on the track. The hero of the occasion was Miss Ethel Sanders of Athelstan, a nurse in training at the General Hospital, who with her own hands applied pressure to the arteries and staunched the flow of blood until the arrival of a doctor, who told the young lady she had saved the Chinaman's life. Honorable mention of Miss Sanders' action has been made in the newspapers and her promptness to afford the sufferer relief, pending the arrival of the doctor, has awakened hearty appreciation and gratitude among those attending the Chinese mission schools in Montreal.

Miss McCully, of Truro, N. S., now connected with the Canada Presbyterian mission in Korea, is about to publish a biography of Rev. W. J. Mackenzie, the first missionary from Canada to that strange land. She was to have followed him to become his wife when he should have become settled in mission work, but his illness and untimely death prevented. Miss McCully, however, went to Korea, about the time that Messrs. Grierson, Foote and McRae went out, and is now doing excellent work in connection with the mission. She will undoubtedly produce an interesting work which will awaken fresh interest in Korea and mission work there.

There are some places in which prohibition does prohibit. This fact was declared respecting Charlottetown, P. E. I., at the recent meeting of the Presbyterian synod of the Maritime provinces. Rev. D. B. McLeod, pastor of Zion church, said that prohibition is successful all over the island. He said there were undoubtedly obscure "dives" where liquor could be secured but let any man go out to get a glass of brandy, and he will find out that Prohibition is a reality. Mr. MacLeod added that a traffic which had its roots struck deeply in the city for over a hundred years could not be wholly wiped out at once. Perhaps it will hide in slums and sneak-holes for ten or twenty years to come; but it is disgraced, condemned and bound to perish.

The Presbyterian church of the United States has appointed a Director of Bible Institutes. The new officer is to assist and direct in cultivating "that study of the Word of God which may encourage the spirit of evangelism. He is to act in harmony with the Evangelistic Committee of the Assembly. The appointment is new. The field is inviting. It is intended that the serious and earnest study of the Scriptures shall be pressed as never before throughout the church on old or young. It is remarkable that the man chosen for this difficult post is not a minister of the Presbyterian church but of the Reformed Episcopal church, the Rev. James M. Gray, D. D., of Boston, a well known expert in the exposition and teaching of Biblical truth. The experiment is interesting, and there is reason to hope that it will turn out a very decided success.

A little over a year ago considerable interest was aroused in scientific and humanitarian circles by the announcement that a Prof. Atwater had declared that there was food value in alcohol. It now transpires that the professor was very guarded in his statement. He has since made a full report on the subject. The food that he finds in alcohol is very insignificant, and except in the smallest doses quite overbalanced by the poison in the stuff. There is nothing about alcohol that meets the ordinary uses of nutriment, for it will not prevent fatigue nor keep the body warm. In fact its sole availability as food is in certain cases of bodily disorder when a physician might prescribe it. As emphatically as a scientist could be expected to speak, Prof. Atwater says: "Healthy people, and especially young people, act wisely in abstaining from alcoholic beverages." It is stated in the most uncompromising way that anybody who drinks liquor puts himself in the gravest danger of taking consumption and other infectious diseases.

That the great American railroads—whose management some time ago issued orders calling for strict sobriety on the part of their employees—would allow these orders to become a dead letter, is negated by subsequent action. The Chicago Interior produces new evidence that the "captains of industry"—as railway managers and directors are sometimes styled—are quite determined as to carrying out their policy. The Wabash, Rock Island and Alton roads have issued new orders more stringent than ever before, forbidding not merely the use of intoxicants but even the frequenting of saloons. In several instances these roads have proved that they meant precisely what they said by discharging employees of long service who were not accused of drunkenness but only of going where liquor was sold. It is said that all the other Western roads will soon take the same stand. The specially encouraging thing about the whole development is that public opinion seems to support it absolutely; not even drinking employees are able to deny that the rule is necessary as well as right and equitable. It would be a good thing if the management of Canadian railways, including the government roads, would adopt and enforce a similar policy.