

Dominion Presbyterian

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The German Emperor defies the prejudice against Jews which is so strong in European countries by appointing Herr Dernburg, a Hebrew, to be head of the German colonial office.

In connection with the work of the Grande Linge Mission, the Canadian Baptist reports that a priest, a novitiate nun, and a lawyer, have this year renounced

It would seem from the large space given to reports of them in Zion's Herald that the camp meetings are much more popular in New England than in the Middle West. They are not of the Chautauqua order either, but evangelistic.

The Christian Endeavor Society in the leper congregation at Canton, China, is one of the best in the mission. It is conducted by the lepers themselves. It is touching to hear them speak of themselves as "outcasts from home and friends, but beloved of Christ."

London, Glasgow and Melbourne, Australia, are already in the field to secure the World's W. C. T. U. Convention of 1909. In the meantime extensive preparations are being made for the coming convention which meets in Tremont Temple, Boston, October 17-23. England has already selected thirty-seven delegates and Scotland twenty-three.

The Christian Church is awakening to the religious needs of the Jews. The missions heretofore maintained among them have been successful. An effort is now being made to train workers who will labor among the Jewish populations of our great cities. Rev. Louis Meyer, of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, who is one of the best authorities in America on the progress of Christianity among the Jews, declares that in 1905 more Jewish converts were baptized than in any previous year of Christian history.

The Canadian Baptist says: "In some respects the Province of Quebec is one of the brightest and best links in the chain of the federated provinces. But in the matter of its religious faith and life, and the bearing of these on the private and public affairs of the country, the Province of Quebec is in need of vast changes and improvements,—of changes and improvements that should be brought about not by carnal weapons of warfare, but by means of the Gospel of Christ received and assimilated by the individual citizens of that land. To bring about these changes and improvements not semi-religious political organizations are needed, but proclamation by lip and life of the enlightening and uplifting Gospel of Christ."

The autumn is as necessary as the spring. We cannot get along without the planting and the sowing, but neither can we do without the reaping and the ingathering. Maturity is the harvest of youth. It is the time when the ripened grains and fruits, of early planting are gleaned; and the reaping and the gleanings will be as the spring time has been. There will be no laden baskets where there has been neither planting nor sowing. No sacks of grain will be drawn to market where there have been no unturrowed furrows. The value of our manhood depends upon the character of our adolescence. If the flag is to float from our turret we must first have our turret from which to fling our flag.

A small percentage of the Doukhobors in our West still continue to make trouble for the authorities. Some time ago a number flatly refused to pay any school tax, saying that as they have always refused to have their children educated, lest they should learn evil things, they will not pay money for school purposes. More recently a score or so started on an excursion in a nude state, were arrested and imprisoned. They declined taking food, and the pump had to be used to prevent suicide.

The publisher of the Northwestern Christian Advocate and other Western Advocates announce that the price of subscription will be raised. Increased cost of publication, due to the rise in labor, paper, etc., is given as the reason. And it is a very serious reason. With the unparalleled expansion of the circulating medium and the general inflation of prices, it is not an easy undertaking for a newspaper to do business on the subscription prices which prevailed when there was less than half as much money in the country as at present.

Statistics are usually only approximately correct, says the Presbyterian Witness. This is true of church statistics. One of the facts demanding attention in denominational figures is the allowance that ought to be made for merely nominal adherence. For example, in the United States and in the United Kingdom there are millions of nominal Protestants that are no strength to any church. In like manner, in France and Italy there are myriads who are supposed to be Roman Catholics, but who pay no regard to the teachings of the Pope.

The New York Christian Advocate had a birthday last week—its eighty-first. The only editor of it now living except him who now so ably fills the office Dr. J. M. Buckley, is Bishop C. H. Fowler. In his note of congratulation he says something which deserves and needs repetition elsewhere: "Families reared on non-denominational, irresponsible papers, that have no standard and no judgment day, are especially exposed to be carried about by every wind of new doctrine or no doctrine, and can never be relied upon in time of storm." Although eighty-four years of age, the Christian Advocate shows no signs of weakness or decay. It is edited with marked ability, and is the ablest Methodist paper reaching our table.

The following extract from the official report of the resident magistrate for Western New Guinea (1905) will be read with interest: "Much of the spirit of unfriendliness, and even hostility, shown to the mission by the natives of the division during the past five years has passed away, and provided the efforts put forth are not relaxed, good results should follow. Many of the villages where a short time ago the missionary was scorned are now anxious to obtain the services of a teacher. To show the amount of earnestness with which the native is taking up his religious beliefs, the inhabitants of two of the Western villages have during the year subscribed the sum of £405 for the purpose of erecting buildings for holding religious services and for school work. Four other villages have subscribed a total of £114 13s. 6d., and propose to increase this to an amount sufficient to defray the cost of a building at each place. One interesting feature in the matter of the erection of these buildings is that the timber to be used is to be procured in the country, and the carpenters employed are Papuans."

The difficulties under which some converts to Christianity labor in India are illustrated by Rev. R. Force-Jones, who writes from Batala. "A few days ago a young Mohammedan of good family came to me for teaching. He was evidently sincere. A fortnight ago about fifty of his relatives seized him and carried him away. They offered him several hundreds of rupees if he would deny Christ, but he refused. They then tied him to a bedstead for two days, but he finally escaped and rushed back to me and I have sent him to a distant mission station, where he is at present safe."

The "Methodist Times" says—With the unanimous acceptance by the Bible Christian Conference of the scheme of amalgamation, the cause of Methodist Union in England has made a large stride forward. The proceedings of the Bible Christian Conference at Plymouth were marked by a singular unanimity, and at the same time by a deep sense of the solemnity of the step. But no jarring note was struck, and the three uniting churches will come together in the heartiest spirit, and in such a heat of enthusiasm as should firmly fuse the union.

When General Gordon was killed at Khartum there was found in his possession a copy of the Bible which he had carried with him in his many campaigns. He was a great man and in this companion volume lay the secret of his greatness. In peace or in war there is no secret of power like this. The Bible not only makes a man a greater Christian, but it makes him a greater man, a greater statesman, a greater warrior, a safer and a saner legislator. Queen Victoria was right when she said, handing a copy of the Bible to a visiting African prince. "This is the secret of England's greatness." Any nation which follows its teachings is great, and no nation is great without it.

Some people moan and groan over their toils or troubles and sometimes over trifles. A lady not yet old used some language the implication of which was that she might as well be dead as alive. A sage happened to hear her remarks and said to her: "Madam, you are a mother and a grandmother; those are two most important functions; so long as you can fill them you should not wish your life to be ended." A few minutes afterward as the sage was taking his departure he happened to hear her say that she had just visited her mother. He returned and added: "You not only ought to live and rejoice to live and fill the parts of mother and grandmother, but you still have a daughter's part to perform, which will never cease to be an obligation while your mother lives."

The Japanese troops have been withdrawn from the province of Mukden, which is to be restored wholly to Chinese administration. The towns of Tieling, Tunzhangtse and Fakumen have been opened by the Chinese government to international trade. Thus the engagements of the Russo-Japanese peace treaty are slowly being carried out. China is learning rapidly from Japan that the policy of exclusion and isolation is not the best. Also, she is learning the advantage of adopting western ways in organizing for defence. Yuan-Shi-Kai, viceroy of the province of Pechili, has been transferred to Peking as commander in chief of the new army which has been organized and drilled by Japanese officers. It numbers now seventy-five thousand men, armed with modern weapons, and is still being increased.