

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS

Note and Comment.

The Presbyterian congregation of St. John's Wood, London, Eng., Rev. Dr. Monro Gibson, pastor, reports a membership of 939, and a total income last year of \$41,688. Such a congregation should prove a powerful evangelistic agency.

In answer to the question:—"How to teach the masses?"—the Bishop of London in a recent address, urged "burning zeal" as a primary qualification, followed up by house to house visitation, bright and attractive services and wise utilization of the Sunday School. These he regarded as the old-fashioned methods of evangelistic work. Of the newer ways of reaching the masses, he thought boys' clubs and the Church Lads' Brigade were great agencies for good.

The New York and New Haven Railroad has issued an order forbidding all gambling with cards on its trains, and all card playing on Sunday trains. Some people regard this as puritanical, and say that what is good enough for people's homes is good enough for railroad trains. May be so; but the management of the railway in question say that these things are not good enough for its trains, however some thoughtless people may be willing to pervert their homes. If the New York and New Haven railway desires to "logically pursue the argument" it will stop the running of Sunday trains as well as the card-playing.

Great Britain's annual drink bill is enormous. It is estimated by experts as equal to \$1,500,000,000. In other words, drink costs England every year a sum four times the capital of all her banks. The liquor loss to the nation is, in round numbers, \$200,000 every hour, or close upon \$5,000,000 every working day. The South African war cost England 20,000 lives. During the period that it lasted 250,000 persons died in Great Britain from the effects of drink. Is it any wonder that the people of the motherland are realizing the supreme necessity of grappling with this monster evil.

Among the helpful suggestions that a pastor can bring home to a new convert is to subscribe for and read carefully a religious newspaper. No pastor can hope to do the best work with people who have no religious reading during the week. He may urge the reading of the Bible, and he cannot do it too strongly. But as a supplement, never as a substitute, the religious newspaper fills a place that nothing else can fill. There should be good books too. But they never take the place of literature that comes to us every week, bringing news of the churches and helps to Christian living.

The following is a will written by a drunkard dying in a New York hotel: "I leave to society a ruined character and a wretched example. I leave to my parents as much sorrow as they can, in their feeble state, bear. I leave to my brothers and sisters as much shame and mortification as I could bring upon them. I leave to my wife a broken heart and a life of shame. I leave to each of my children poverty, ignorance, a

low character, and one remembrance, that their father filled a drunkard's grave, and has gone to a drunkard's hell."—Ex.

The call from India, says the United Presbyterian, for one hundred and eighty additional missionaries is so urgent that it must be considered with care. The proposition is bold and imperative, but is it too much so? All mission work rests upon the actual condition of the world and the command of our Lord. The need of the world is immeasurably great, the actual spiritual condition of unnumbered millions is sad beyond expression; the command of our Lord is definite and supreme. In some degree at least we appreciate the feelings of the laborers in the field. The ignorance and destitution about them, the smallness of the number of the missionaries, the seeming feebleness of the agencies and resources at command, move their souls to the very depths. By night and by day the sad faces of the heathen are in their minds, and the wail of the perishing in their hearts. What else can they do than call for more helpers?

United States Senator-elect, Reed Smoot, of Utah, will probably run against a snag if he attempts to occupy the seat to which he has been elected. It is stated that for months detectives have been at work trying to collect evidence to show that Smoot was wedded to two women, in addition to his generally accepted wife. The results of these investigations have been kept secret by the persons working on the case, but it is stated that the testimony so far obtained has not been sufficient to secure a conviction in court on a polygamy charge. One reason for this is the fact that all marriage records in the Mormon Church are kept from the eyes of the public, and positive written evidence is therefore extremely difficult to obtain. The investigations made, however, have convinced the men working on them that Smoot has taken unto himself at least one extra wife, whether they can prove it or not. Both women in question are under 30 years of age. Both the marriages in question are said to have been celebrated within the last seven years.

Alarm is being aroused in medical circles in the United States over the growing use of the drug cocaine. An eminent physician of Pittsburg, Pa., in a recent lecture, spoke of the plant from which it is obtained as "possibly the most wonderful plant ever fanned by the zephyrs of Heaven—the *Dava plant cocaïæ*." He further said: "I know more than half a score of doctors who have already become wrecks through its use." A medical authority says that "when used habitually and in excess, it weakens the digestion, produces bilinary and other disorders, and finally induces a misérable ruin of both body and mind." The Presbyterian Banner utters this warning: "Let no one experiment with this drug or step within its fatal circle for a single moment. Its use should be strictly confined to the physician's and surgeon's hands, and no other one should touch it. Its sale also should be put under the same legal restriction as other poisons. It is already a rival of alcohol and seems to have even more destructive power.

We cannot be too prompt and imperious in raising a warning against it and in putting it under restraint."

The banishment of playing cards and liquors from the Pennsylvania passenger trains, says The Interior, is another indorsement from the plain business side of things for the objection of moralists to these symbols and agencies of evil. The prohibition, we take it, is based wholly upon the propensity of men who love gaming and men who love drinking to make nuisances of themselves in such a varied company as a railroad coach gathers together. Most certainly it is possible for a man both to play cards and to drink and still continue with a gentleman in behaviour, but there are physical reasons in the case of the drink, and apparently some occult psychological reasons in the case of the cards, why a person who uses either is much less certain to retain his gentlemanliness than a person who eschews both. The railroad company, though it draws its patrons principally from the polite classes, feels that it will be surer of decorum on its trains when it casts off the bottle and the card pack together, and the young man who takes notes from what he sees going on around him, may well conclude that what is not safe lading for a railroad train had better be left out of the cargo that he himself ships for the "voyage of life."

The alleged degeneracy of the sons of ministers has often furnished a sweet morsel for speakers and writers of a certain class in their gibes at the ministerial profession. Such gibes are rarely based on facts—the degenerate sons of ministers are the exception not the rule. A noted French scientist and savant, De Candolle, has made some original investigations which conclusively show that the ranks of science and learning are especially indebted to the sons of clergymen. He affirms that they actually outnumbered for two hundred years, in the roll of eminent men, any other class of families, not excepting those of the directly scientific professions—physicians, surgeons and chemists. Among the sons of ministers he enumerates the following: Agassiz, Linnaeus, Euler, Hallam, Sismondi, Jonathan Edwards, Wnatley, Paikman, Bancroft, the Wesleys, Beechers and Spurgeons, Young, Cowper, Thomson, Coleridge, Tennyson, Lowell, Holmes, Emerson, Charles Kingsley, Matthew Arnold, Maurice, Dean Stanley, Macaulay, Thackeray, Sir Christopher Wren, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Switt, Sterne, Hazlitt, etc. The Herald and Presbyterian supplements the French savant's list by the statement that Presidents Cleveland and Arthur were ministers' sons, as were Peter Stuyvesant, Adinram Judson, Jonathan Edwards, Timothy Dwight, Henry Clay, Fitz-Greene Halleck, Samuel Finley Breese Morse, Justice Stephen J. Field and Brewer, Henry Ward Beecher, and many others. United States Senator Dolliver, of Iowa, is a minister's son, and there are others in the Senate with the same family history. This list might be greatly lengthened by investigation in Canada as well as in the United States. With an exception here and there ministers' sons are pretty good fellows.