

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

In answer to a query, Berry, formerly the English executioner, states that not one of the 500 persons whom he hanged was a total abstainer.

Mr. G. W. Stephens in the Quebec Legislature last week declared that in no other place on the continent did illiteracy exist to such an extent as in the Province of Quebec.

Two hundred sailors will leave England by the C. P. R. liner 'Lake Manitoba' on March 12 for Vancouver, as an experiment of the Admiralty to find out how quickly, in case of necessity, troops could be transported to the Far East.

An order was made by Justice Warrington, in London, the other day, for the distribution of an estate that had been in the Court of Chancery for 400 years. In that time its value had increased threefold.

The most effective way to provide against the threatened coal strike, says the Boston Morning Star, would be for Congress to put foreign coal on the free list where it belongs. It is a universal fuel and the duty on it operates mainly for the benefit of the mine owners while they are freezing the public.

The Dominion Inland Revenue Department recently issued an important bulletin showing the large amounts of alcohol in various widely-advertised patent medicines, in some as much as forty per cent, raising the question whether they can be legally sold by druggists without a liquor license.

For slandering the German Governor of the Cameroons in West Africa, King Akwa has been sentenced to nine years' penal servitude, while other chiefs have been condemned to term varying from one to seven years for similar offences. What thin-skinned people—or is it excessively important?—the average German officials must be, not excepting the Kaiser himself.

An Anti-Opium Campaign has been begun in England by Dr. Sidney L. Gulick, author of the well-known work on the "Evolution of the Japanese, social and psychic." Dr. Gulick comes "to tell Englishmen how the Japanese regard the opium traffic carried on by the Government of India." The opium traffic is going on at Manila, but the United States has not opened an anti-opium campaign.

When opposing the United States Senate Chinese Exclusion Bill in 1882, the late Senator Hoar, a great statesman, as well as a Christian gentleman, said, that "just so surely as the path on which our father entered one hundred years ago led to safety, to strength, to glory," so surely would the path on which the nation then proposed entering bring them "to shame, to weakness, and to peril." That prophecy seems likely to have fulfillment.

How the rank of millionaire may be attained by men of moderate means is shown by the life of the late Judge Tuley, of Chicago, says the Michigan Presbyterian. When he died a few weeks ago the press acknowledged his services to the city, his rectitude, integrity and devotion to duty, and one paper referred to him as a new kind of millionaire—"the man with a million friends." He died a comparatively poor man and yet without riches he won the affection of the people.

The King of Greece having expressed his willingness to accept a copy of the Bible in remembrance of his recent visit to England, the Bible Society has forwarded to Athens the Society's "Jubilee" English Bible, in four volumes—similar to that presented to Queen Victoria at her first Jubilee—and also Nestle's Greek Testament, both suitably bound for presentation to His Majesty.

The Christian Guardian was surprised to learn the other day that the English Wesleyan Missionary Society is doing aggressive work among the cosmopolitan population brought together by the Panama Canal scheme. The Society has missionaries stationed at both the ocean termini of the canal—Colon and Panama—and there are six centres of work along the route. The Wesleyan Church has been working on the Isthmus for the past twenty-three years.

British temperance leaders are rejoicing in the downfall of the Balfour Ministry and cordially greeting their successors. Temperance has at least four stalwart friends of temperance in the new cabinet. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, John Morley, Sir Robert Reid, and John Burns. As late as December 21 the new Prime Minister, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, addressed a meeting at Albert Hall, London, in behalf of local prohibition.

At a recent meeting of the Presbytery of Manchester (England) the following resolution was carried unanimously:—"The Presbytery of Manchester desire to offer to the Rev. Dr. McLaren their heartiest congratulations on his having, in the providence of God, attained his eightieth birthday; and to express the earnest hope that he may be long spared to reap the fruits of his labors as a preacher of the Gospel and an expositor of Holy Scripture, as well as to enjoy the esteem and affection of his innumerable friends and admirers throughout the world."

The following paragraph from a correspondent who was in Shanghai during the Chinese riots before Christmas, is interesting in view of the Changpu disturbances, says the British Weekly:—"No lady or gentleman went out for two whole days except under escort, and then only to get to a place of safety. A number of ladies and children living four miles out took pillows and rugs, and stayed in the County Club, guarded by the European police. We were ordered to the Cathedral if the Chinese attacked the settlement. Though Christmas was so near at hand, no one had any heart to make preparations for it, and we went out in twenties, near alone, to what festivities there were, in high-necked dresses and boots in case of surprise."

The Congress of the United States has now a bill before it proposing to form a new state out of Oklahoma and Indian Territories. The bill contains a clause providing for absolute prohibition in the new state for twenty-one years and "thereafter, unless the people decide otherwise by an amendment to the constitution." The Indian Territory has been under a prohibition law for many years. The Christian Intelligencer states that "the prohibitory law has operated with complete satisfaction in the Indian Territory, and is desired by many in the territory of Oklahoma, and if these territories are formed into a State with a prohibitory clause in the enabling act to run for twenty-one years, it will be quite likely to obtain indefinitely, as the people will be willing at the expiration of that period to let well enough alone."

A physician in search of remedies for human ills finds that laughter stands very high in the list of prophylactics. The effect of mere cheerfulness as a health promoter is well known, but an occasional outburst of downright laughter is the heroic remedy. "Laugh and grow fat," rests on a sound philosophical basis. Portly people are not given to laughter because they are fat; they are fat because they laugh.

The Presbyterian Banner, of Pittsburgh, intimates that a reaction has set in in some parts of the United States against Sunday work on the railroad, and that the movement in that direction is growing. A Western paper says that "the entire St. Paul railroad system has made a new regulation that Sunday shall be a day of rest as far as possible. Sunday excursions will be discontinued, as well as extra trains that day, and freight crews will be instructed to make headquarters by Saturday night." General Passenger Agent Miller says the road is doing this because he thinks its men are entitled to a rest, and because the Sunday traffic is a risk for which the returns are not adequate. This sort of thing," continues the newspaper, "seems to us to be a great sign of the times. The sign is that we are coming to the age of wisdom, the time when we learn that there are limits to human nature, so that the level best, the greatest average, is to be had by reversion to moderation." The railway companies of Canada should take the hint.

We note that in some religious journals, doubts are being expressed as to "the practical and permanent results of the vast and impressive gatherings which the methods adopted by the evangelists"—Dr. Chapman, Dr. Torrey and Mr. Alexander, Dr. Dawson and others—"and of the expressions of interest and decision which have been evoked." In discussing the question of "practical and permanent results" the New York Christian Intelligencer says:—"That much good has been accomplished, that the desired effects have not been entirely wanting, will not be disputed, but that there has been great exaggeration in reporting results, and that in many cases the after fruitage has been far less than was expected, is equally indisputable. The unanimous decision of the pastors of San Francisco, after a study of the outcome of the evangelistic meetings under Dr. Chapman, at Oakland, Los Angeles, Portland and Seattle, not to co-operate in a similar campaign in their city, is one of several instances." And yet in another article the same paper endorses the plan of special services, at which there should be "a waiting for God's message," the condition of hearing His voice being "a consecrated heart," adding: "In this truth of consecration we have the history as well as the prophecy of the Church of God. A consecrated soul is the Bethany of the Holy Ghost. A consecrated Church is the Kingdom of God in power upon the earth. A consecrated ministry, upheld by a consecrated laity, is the divinely-appointed keeper of the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Consecrated lips persuade sinners. Consecrated hands minister to the needy. Consecrated money bears the message of Christ to the ends of the earth. Consecrated time holds eternal rewards. Consecrated talents develop into divine powers. The Church needs nothing more than entire consecration to God; the spirit of God will accept nothing less. Shall this need be met? When this uplift and consecration of Christian lives comes into action there will be genuine revivals of religion wherever the living Gospel is faithfully preached. Then we shall understand the force and beauty of the Scripture declaration: "He that winneth souls is wise."