

Dominion Presbyterian

Devoted to the Interests of the Family and the Church

\$1.50 per Annum

MONTREAL, TORONTO, WINNIPEG

Single Copies, 5 Cents

Correspondents will please note that all letters should be addressed The Dominion Presbyterian, 232 St. James St., Montreal.

Note and Comment

The High Court of Allahabad has refused, on general principles of sex, to enrol, as a legal practitioner, Miss Sorabji, a Parsee lady, with a singularly distinguished English University career.

Many will be sorry to hear that there is no immediate prospect of the diaries and correspondence of the late Rev. Dr. Boyd ("A. K. H. B.") being published. Dr. Boyd had some time before his death expressed a wish that these papers should remain unpublished.

Lord Kitchener has returned from completing a tour of inspection in the Soudan, and is about to take a short leave. It is said that the Khalifa's chiefs are deserting him. It is stated that the Soudan will be thrown open to traders and others without restriction as soon as the railway to Khartoum is finished, which will be about the middle of September next. Europeans will be free to acquire land, and a Government land registry will be established. A tax of 20 per cent. will be charged by the Government on gums, ivory and feathers the products of the country.

Dr. John Robson, the new Moderator of U. P. Synod, is the emeritus-minister of St. Nicholas Church, Union Grove, Aberdeen, and was ordained in 1860, when he volunteered for service as a missionary to Rajputana, India. During the famine of 1869, Dr. Robson labored with marked devotion to alleviate the sufferings of the hunger-stricken people, cordially supported by contributions from the Church at home. The over-work during this trying time told severely on his health, and he had to return home in 1871. Five years later his health being sufficiently restored, he accepted the pastorate at Aberdeen, and only last October retired from active duty. Dr. Robson has written several works of much ability, his best known—"Hinduism and its Relation to Christianity"—being regarded as a text-book.

Sir E. Russell (writing in the Liver pool Post) tells this story, assumedly: it relation to the crisis in the Church:—"I was once in Westminster Abbey on a Sunday afternoon, listening to Dean Stanley. Next to him sat a healthy looking, squirish sort of a gentleman, who paid most careful attention to the discourse, but seemed very fidgetty, moving about in his seat and becoming visibly fretful. At last he pulled his watch out of his pocket, held it before his neighbor, and said, with syllabic deliberation, 'Five and twenty minutes, and the name of Our Saviour never mentioned yet.'"

The Russian Church is showing increasing interest in Palestine. A Roman Catholic report in "der Freiwilliche" says a Russian committee in Nazareth is spreading religious schools through the land. There are twenty such schools in the north, in Beirut, Tiberias, Nazareth, etc. The teachers are well trained, and compare well with those of Protestant and Catholic schools. The French have charge of the Catholic schools here, which include 140 for boys and 50 for girls, with 195 male and 98 female teachers; of pupils there are 7,832 boys and 4,575 girls. German Protestants have 1,200 orphans in schools, and American Protestants have 2,800; this report says the Catholic schools aim "first of all to close those of our rivals."

A religious movement arising out of racial differences is in progress in Bohemia and other Germanic provinces of the Austrian empire. The ultramontaine Catholics, now dominant in Austria, have shown so much anti-German prejudice that the Germans are leaving the communion in large numbers and seeking reception by the old Catholics, who already have governmental recognition, and they are advised by Herr Schonerer, the leader of the Pan Germanic group to do so en masse and at once. A writer in the London Times says the movement is essentially a national one, and while the immediate tendency is toward the Old Catholics, the Lutherans attract them. Romanism in Austria can not adapt itself to new conditions, any more than it can in Spain. The Pope's letter to Cardinal Gibbons shows that it can not keep step with the people in the United States.

It is understood that a new edition of Professor Edward Caird's "Evolution of Religion," will shortly be published by Messrs. Maclehose. The subject of comparative religions promises to be of paramount importance at the dawn of the new century. It will probably overshadow every other department of theology.

An Indian reservation in Colorado was thrown open to settlers at an appointed hour, and 15,000 immigrants made a rush to secure land. For weeks previously settlers camped along the border. At the sound of a bugle men started on their mad race on horseback, leaving their wives and families to come on by waggons. The Indians had been compensated for the loss of their property.

The itinerancy in the Methodist Church is the object of some severe criticism by the New York correspondent of The Christian Advocate. The fact that there is a declining membership can, he says, be no longer concealed, and he argues that one unquestionable cause, and in cities the most definite, is the recklessly unsettled character of the ministry. "We have in point of fact only a one-year pastorate. There is not the first element of permanence in our system. Men go to conference just as Paul went up to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will befall them there. Ministers who have been invited to return, and who have accepted such invitations, receive overtures from other churches at Conference, and their failure to keep a definite, honorable engagement has the approval of the Bishop and his cabinet! Sometimes one or two dissatisfied members of a board, whose opposition is the highest compliment possible, present themselves at Conference and succeed in setting aside the declared wish of almost the entire church. Then, again, certain adjustments are necessary, in order to complete which ministers will be removed from charges where their work has the manifest favor of God, thus interfering with the Divine arrangement. There is no more loyal Methodist in the Church than the writer of this paragraph. But he sees, just as all thoughtful men see, that the present system is under a dangerous strain. Methodism must face new conditions. And the sooner it sets about it the better for all concerned."