

Dominion Presbyterian

Devoted to the Interests of the Family and the Church

\$1.50 per Annum

MONTREAL, TORONTO, WINNIPEG

Single Copies, 5 Cents

Note and Comment

Lady Aberdeen has resigned the presidency of the National Council of Women of Canada, and Lady Taylor will succeed to the office.

Lord Strathcona has accepted an invitation to become a candidate for the Lord Rectorship of Aberdeen University.

Rev. Principal Grant is still spending his vacation in Scotland, and it is not likely he will return until Christmas. The Principal has undergone operations which render a rest advisable.

Pocket looking-glasses which, when breathed upon, show the name of a blend of whiskey, are the latest notion. The Glasgow Evening News suggests that the temperance party might issue a rival which simply showed snakes.

Mr. E. W. Bok has captured two popular authors for an early number of the Ladies' Home Journal—Rudyard Kipling, who will write a page on "The American Girl," and "Mr. Doodley," who will begin a series on "The New Woman."

One of the most gratifying signs of progress in the Canadian Northwest is the great increase in sales of land this year. One company reports its September sales double that for the same month last year, and the railway land sales, largely farming lands, show an increase over previous years. Most of the sales are to actual settlers.

Christian Work says: The Pope's letter to the Brazilian bishops tells them they should interest themselves in public affairs, and that leading priests might well even enter Congress, for the benefit of religion and their native land. The Pope doesn't have to send a letter to the American R.C. bishops, priests and deacons not to eschew politics. They are in it every time.

Nine columns of the hypostyle hall of the Temple of El-Karnak, at Thebes, have fallen. The Temple of El-Karnak is one of the most magnificent temples of ancient architecture in the world. The hall measures 170 x 329 feet. The stone roof was originally supported by 134 columns, the tallest of which were nearly 70 feet high and 12 feet in diameter. It was built by Setee I. of the nineteenth Egyptian dynasty.

The secret of Lord Dufferin's wide range of accomplishments is that the little leisure time his political duties have allowed him he has always devoted to study. When Governor-General in India in 1884, he began to learn Persian, a language bristling with difficulties, and, as it was his custom to take a walk after the heat of the day was over with an escort of two native policemen, he selected for this duty men who were proficient in Persian, that they might instruct him in the language.

The St. Lawrence canals will attract a great deal of trade when they are completed. The capacity of the canals now nearing completion will at first be about 3,000,000 tons a year in one direction, but by degrees as ships are built more to the requirements of the trade, the capacity may be doubled, and when the power of the Falls for lighting purposes is fully used and the canal system comes under Government control, 12,000,000 tons each way may be handled.

A natural soap mine and a paint mine were two of the latest curiosities which have been discovered in British Columbia. Several soda lakes have been found in the foothills near Ashcroft, British Columbia. According to Fielden's Magazine their bottoms and shores are encrusted with a natural washing compound containing borax and soda. It is quite equal to the washing powders in common use for cleansing purposes. About 275 tons of the compound have been cut and taken out of one lake. It is handled exactly the same as ice. One lake alone contains 20,000 tons.

The chair in the Free Church College, Glasgow, which has been made vacant by the death of Dr. Bruce (says the "British Weekly") is not to be filled up till after the Union, when some radical changes must take place. Under the existing arrangements the professor is required to teach two subjects—Apologetics and New Testament exegesis. These are not regarded as vitally related, and the proposal is to separate them, and institute two chairs. Among the men named as conceivably fit to occupy them are Professor Orr, Dr. McEwen, and Mr. Welch, of the U.P. Church, and Dr. Stalker, of the Presbyterian Church, of Fimthorn; Dr. Hastings and Dr. Kennedy, of Callander. Dr. Bruce's place will be occupied during the coming session by Dr. Hutchinson, of Bonnington, a much-esteemed United Presbyterian minister, who was Moderator of Synod a year or two ago.

Rev. A. B. Simpson, of the Missionary Alliance, has announced himself as opposed to the Twentieth Century Funds for Education, on the ground that the Second Coming of Christ will probably prevent the use of the funds then raised. Now, how does Brother Simpson know? remarks the Presbyterian Standard. This is the danger of dwelling too much on the Lord's return. "No man knoweth," said Christ himself, and again, "It is not for you to know. And it is not only a disarming of Christ to doubt this word, or to try to explain it away, but it is the deadliest enemy of permanent and enduring work for him, to limit the period of the age which will end with His return. Let us try to preserve the Scriptural attitude of expectancy and watchfulness as to that great and blessed event, and at the same time lay broad and deep the foundation for new walls and towers in the edifice of the Christian Church, as though it were to breast the storms of centuries to come and be hoary with age when the last stone is put in its place and the building is complete."

The Novoe Vremya of Russia regards the absorption of the Dutch states in South Africa by Great Britain as being the development of a scheme by the latter power for the formation of a vast Mohammedan empire embracing Central and Eastern Africa, the Sudan and Egypt, surpassing in power that of the Sultan himself, and designed to sweep Russia out of Central Asia. Of the 200,000,000 Mohammedans estimated to exist not more than about 32,000,000 are under the temporal direct or indirect, of the Sultan, while in British India, Malaya, Protected Indian States, and Arabia there are nearly 60,000,000 Moslems, governed directly or indirectly by Great Britain. The populations of Egypt, the Sudan, British Central Africa, Uganda, East African Protectorate, and Zanzibar, are practically, in name at least, Mohammedan. The population of the Sudan is a very uncertain quantity, but is estimated at about 11,000,000; therefore the total number of Moslems in Eastern Africa, under the direct or indirect control of the British Government may already be reckoned at nearly 23,000,000. The Montreal Witness calls the Russian view referred to above "a far-fetched accusation," but says that "it must be admitted that the future potentialities of such a state under British domination and direction are far from being mere fanciful creations, and may well be subjects of interesting as well as instructive speculation."

Literary Notes.

We have received a copy of Mr. Mosher's latest catalogue (T. B. Mosher, New Exchange Street, Portland, Me.), entitled, "A List of Books in Belles Lettres." It is got up quite artistically, and contains, as well as the titles of the various books, a statement of their contents, and, in some cases, brief notes on their history and significance for modern literature. Those who can afford to treat themselves generously in the matter of hand-some books, or who wish to give Christmas or birthday presents in this form, should send for this catalogue.

Messrs. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier continue to issue the Famous Scots Series (1s. 6d. per volume). The latest is an interesting, instructive little book by Sir George Douglas, the greater part of which is devoted to James Hogg, "The Ettrick Shepherd," but which includes brief biographies of Robert Farnhill, the Paisley poet; William Motherwell and William Thom. These chapters in Scottish literature have been carefully prepared and are well written. No one can fail to gain from this volume a clear view of the shepherd who tried his hand at many things; and who, though heavily hampered from the beginning by illiterateness, succeeded in making for himself a lasting place in literature. As the author says it is an inspiring story. And these stories are of the kind which gain greatly from the happy ending. For, in all departments of life it is only natural to salute the victor; and though the Chattertons and Daniel Grays may have aspired with equal generosity of feeling towards the light, we must allow its due credit to the tougher fibre and the better balance which enable Hogg to persevere till the goal was reached and the wreath wrested.

"Cromwell and His Times," by Hold. Pyke. This book is, as the sub-title says, on the subject of the social, religious and political life of England in the seventeenth century. It is valuable and interesting, not as a chronicle of events, but as a picture of the conditions of Cromwell's times. We are made to understand the great Protector's character and influence through the knowledge given us of his surroundings. The author shows how despotism failed, and how the development of Puritanism was inevitable. Then we see the course of the war, but not in detail, just in its effects on different people. The parts which tell of Colonel Hutchinson and his wife are perhaps the most interesting in the book, though the last chapter, in which we are asked to look at the religious, social and industrial life of the people, is very comprehensive. The value of the book is enhanced by the numerous illustrations, also by its neat appearance and good type. T. Fisher Unwin, Paternoster Square, London, England.

A number of attractive books for boys have been received from Dana, Estes & Co., Boston. "Off Santiago with Sampson," by James Oles, "When Dewey Came to Manila," by James Oles, are both bright stories treating of recent events. "Captain Tom, the Privateersman of the Armed Brig Chasseur," also by Oles, tells of brave fights on the sea during the war of 1812. Small boys will find the accounts contained therein very thrilling. "The Minute Boys of Bunker Hill," by Edward Stratmeyer, tells of many stirring deeds and exciting escapes. "Two American Boys in Hawaii," by C. Waldo Browne, gives us a good idea of life in this strange island; and there is also no lack of adventures. These books are all excellently printed on good paper and handsomely bound in linen. From the same publishers comes Chatterbox for 1899, full of stories, anecdotes and puzzles, for the little ones, with many illustrations, including six colored ones. This annual is liked by all our young people for those who cannot read can enjoy the pictures.