

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

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## Note and Comment.

Several seats in the New York Stock Exchange were sold last week at the top price of \$80,000.

The Princess Louise, a daughter of King Leopold of Belgium, has been pronounced hopelessly insane.

English toy makers have once again asserted their position, and retain in their hands a large share of the toy trade, which a few years ago was almost entirely monopolized by Germany and Switzerland.

With a view to economy and to allow officers risen from the ranks to live on their pay, considerable alterations are to be introduced in the uniform of the officers of the army. A War Office letter has been sent out, directing that certain articles of uniform at present in use shall be abolished.

This age will be known in history as the age of Bible translation. At the beginning of the century there were fifty-six versions of the Scriptures; by 1860 the number had risen to 220; by 1890 it had leaped up to 231; and we pass the threshold of the new century with over four hundred versions of the Bible or some portion thereof.

There are now fifteen independent colored churches in Boston, where thirty years ago one could be sustained with difficulty. This does not mean that colored people are crowded out of the white churches. They prefer to worship by themselves. One important fact is that education has fitted more colored people to be the leaders of their own people and pastors of their churches.

Among the additional Stevensoniana which the world has recently been given are some striking illustrations of the pains Stevenson took in the writing of his works, certain from "Weir of Hermiston" being among the most impressive. But as Homer was occasionally accustomed to nod, so did Stevenson when, in a tale of the Regency, he made his escaped French prisoner of war, St. Ives, declare that, while in Edinburgh after his flight, he would not "take a cab." Now it was not until George IV. had been crowned two years that "cabs" were first known even in London.

Riots, arising from the union of the Free and the United Churches of Scotland, have taken place on the Island of Lewis, one of the Hebrides. The islanders refused to countenance the alliance, and when the minister at Ness joined the United Church, they locked him out of his church. A strong force of police was sent over from the mainland to open the doors, whereupon the islanders congregated, and, throwing volleys of stones at the constables, drove them inside the building and bombarded them with rocks until they capitulated and agreed to leave the island. Every member of the police department was more or less seriously wounded.

In Germany more than 50 sanatoria for the open-air treatment of consumptives, affording accommodation for about 4,000 working men, are in operation. The success of the experiment has been such as to afford ground for believing that by the timely admission of the consumptive workman into a sanatorium his life may be prolonged. In Germany the funds required for maintaining workmen's sanatoria are chiefly derived from the system of compulsory insurance against illness which exists in that country.

By the death of Father Leon Alishaw at Venice, in his eighty-first year, the Armenian race loses one of its most saintly figures, patriotic poets, and cultivated historians. He was a member of several foreign academies and learned societies, and in addition to devotional books his three great topographical histories of Cilicia, Sisuan, and Shirak and monographs on the geology, fauna, and flora of Armenia are standard works, though he will probably be best remembered by his discovery of the Armenian text of the Apology of Aristides.

When Mrs. Ward wrote "Eleanor," it was feared by her numerous appreciative readers that it perhaps represented, in its great beauty and finish of treatment the best and last book of fiction she would produce. The Harpers state, on the contrary, that her new work, which they will publish in 1902, is even finer in conception and workmanship than "Eleanor," and is the crowning effort of Mrs. Ward's career. As in the former book, the chief character of the new story is a woman. The novel will run serially in Harper's Magazine, beginning in early spring.

That Bismarck, the Man of Iron, should furnish the text for a religious discourse on "The Reign of Love" seems at the first glance an improbable event; yet a distinguished rabbi of the Jewish Church has made the Iron Chancellor the subject of such an address, using "The Love Letters of Bismarck" as a basis for his remarks. These love letters remain one of the most remarkable and surprising revelations of a man's inner nature the world of letters has ever known. Certainly Bismarck, almost more than any other man, had

Two soulsides, one to face the world with,  
One to show a woman when he loves her."

Boston was at one time considered the most distinctly American of the cities of the United States, but that distinction exists no longer. The last published report of the Boston Board of Health, a good guide to the division of population, shows that the number of deaths for the week was 237, as against 202 for the corresponding week last year. Of the number 237 were white and 4 coloured; 146 were born in the United States, 85 in foreign countries and 6 of unknown nationality; 47 were of American parentage, and 161 of foreign parentage. The increase in the foreign born population of Boston is mostly from Ireland, Canada and Russia. The German population of Boston continues small.

In the past seventy years 300 of the Pacific islands have been evangelized which now furnish a commerce of \$20,000,000 annually. On many of these former heathen islands the people are more thorough and consistent observers of the claims of the Gospel of Christ than the majority of the people living in the oldest Christian countries of the world.

A story is told about the late Rev. P. W. Robertson, of Portobello, whose death was announced last month. When he was minister of Kilmarnock he was appointed to preach one Sunday morning before the General Assembly. Among the ladies in the Moderator's Gallery were Miss Heriot Maitland of Ramornie, and Lady Pelham, an English friend, who was anxious to hear a Scottish sermon. At the close Lady Pelham turned to her companion and said, "Is that your best minister in Scotland?" "Oh! no; he is the young minister of Kilmarnock." "Well, I never heard such a sermon," replied the English visitor. "What a wonderful country this Scotland is for preachers."

One of the most aggressive, if not progressive, religions in the world to-day is Mohammedanism. The "Sick Man" of Europe may have his troubles but he is by no means an object of sympathy or pity. He is perhaps as much annoyed by over-zealous and fanatical followers of the false prophet as he is by the avowed opponents of his faith. His official newspaper is said to be bitterly attacking Christianity and asserting that missionaries of the Cross must not be permitted to work in the Sultan's territories. If such publications are authorized by government authority in Turkey, or even merely overlooked, it becomes a somewhat serious matter; they are liable to cause outbreaks against missionaries and foreigners, and are exactly in line with the Boxer movement in China. Reports come almost constantly of trouble in Macedonia, Armenia, and elsewhere between the Turkish soldiers and the Christian inhabitants. Christian teachers have been persecuted, some killed, and many robbed and wounded. Mention has already been made of attempts to throw upon the English the opprobrium of the uprising in South-western Arabia, the danger, artfully being that the sacred cities of Mecca and Medina might be seized by the British. Time and again it has been announced that the Sultan was about to put himself at the head of the Mohammedan world, and proclaim a grand crusade against Christianity and modern civilization. It is, perhaps, a case of the wish fathering the thought. A commission left Constantinople some days ago to attempt opening closer relation between Mohammedans in Turkey and China. The millions of the same faith in India are most probably in close touch with the Sultan, and this is possibly the best explanation of England's constant siding with the Turk. Military critics of high standing pronounce the Turkish army, for its numbers, the most formidable in Europe. Altogether, in looking at the present character and power of the unspeakable Turk, it is not remarkable that Salisbury should think England, forty or more years ago, "put her money on the wrong horse."