

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

Our old country exchanges say that King Alfonso is in such a bad state of health that he will consult a specialist in tuberculosis during his present visit to London.

So far McGill University has found it impossible to secure a properly qualified professor to take the chair of education, which was founded recently by Sir William Macdonald.

A least two villages were destroyed in Calabria, Italy, by an earthquake, while in others many houses were laid in ruins. Two hundred bodies have been recovered, and it is believed the death roll will reach 500.

For fifty years every week day at noon a prayer meeting has been held in the busiest section of New York. This week the jubilee of the widely known Fulton street prayer meeting is being celebrated. The average daily attendance during the half century of its existence has been two hundred. The attendance during the past five years has been increasing.

A Hebrew evangelist, Mr. Philip Sidersky, of the Christian Mission for Jews, Baltimore, has held extended open-air meetings for the Jews in Washington and Baltimore this summer. He speaks to his people in Hebrew, and has stereopticon views of Bible lands and Scripture stories. The meetings are orderly and the addresses are without bitterness or anything to irritate, but are the testimony of God in the Scriptures to the gift of a Divine Saviour of men.

Justice Miller, of the New York Supreme Court, made an announcement a few days ago which he at once put into practice by refusing a number of applications for citizenship. He said: "We have admitted too many ignorant foreigners to citizenship already. I do not purpose to admit to the franchise any person who does not know enough about the constitution of the country to cast an intelligent ballot. I will not grant citizenship papers to any immigrant who has not a fixed intention of staying in the country and an intelligent knowledge of and patriotic interest in its form of government. An ignorant electorate tends to be a corruptible electorate; an unintelligent use of the ballot is dangerous to the success of a democratic form of government." The Canadian Government might make a note of what the American judge says.

A correspondent of the Central Presbyterian, writing on "What the Presbyterian Brotherhood may do," says: "If the brotherhood could take hold of these two things—family worship and the observance of the Sabbath—and bring about a general revival throughout our entire Church membership of their observance as inculcated in the Bible, I believe it would do more good towards fighting Satan than it could do in any other way. There seems to be more danger to our whole country from the breaking down of these two bulwarks of our religion than from any other two sins that could be named; because a whole-souled observance of these two things would correct so many other evils that are now rampant in the land. It is something fearful to think of the growing tendency to disregard God's commands about the Sabbath day."

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, the brilliant Irish politician and writer, gives good advice to young men when he says: "And let me whisper this word finally in your ear. It won't do you the least harm if you are a teetotaler. You may lose something, but you gain tenfold. I believe in half a century from now no man will rise to the height of any profession, in the field, in the forum, or at the desk, who is not a teetotaler."—Ex.

The chief difficulty in enforcing laws against the liquor traffic is the unfaithfulness of the law officers, many of them showing practical sympathy with the law-breakers. A Georgia judge is of another sort. A fellow who had started an illicit grocery was brought before him the other day, and he sentenced him to a heavy fine and a term of twelve months in the chain gang. It will not only cure him of whisky selling, but will probably cause others of his ilk to be a little careful. The chain gang treatment will put them out of business more readily than anything else. And will anybody say that any class of men more deserve it?

The disestablishment of the Church of England must be looming nearer than we had supposed, says the Belfast Witness. At the Yarmouth Congress the subject was broadly discussed as "in the air" by Dr. Sheepshanks, the presiding prelate. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in a visitation address, goes into the details and difficulties of disestablishment, as if an actual bill was coming up in Parliament. The Welsh Nonconformists are threatening to revolt from the present Liberal Government unless they forthwith set about disestablishing the Anglican Church in Wales and Monmouth. It looks as if the cause is ripening rapidly, and only waits a latter-day Gladstone to put in his sickle. But where is he to be found?

In the course of an article on "The Unrest in India," contributed to the Mysore Review, a native Hindu gives the following unsolicited testimony to the good work of the missionary. He says: "We take this opportunity of entreating our countrymen not to misunderstand our European Missionary friends, and to impute to them sinister motives for the work they are doing in our midst. They do not mask their object in coming to India. It is avowedly to evangelize her children by conviction. They do not use force or compulsion. They are, however, the great pioneers and successful prosecutors of Western higher education, and being divested of official prestige, give us object lessons of British home life and morale. They are sincere in their beliefs and enable us to correctly appraise the intrinsic social position of the Britishers, who are dressed in brief authority over us. They moreover sympathize and mix with us in many a social and public function, and we have much to learn from them, and improve our general condition. Their colleges and high schools hold their own among the best in the land, and some of the best among our men of light and leading are the alumni of those institutions. They do not, as a rule, make converts by unfair means. There may be exceptions here and there, but we believe we have painted our Missionary friends in India in true and faithful colors. We ought always to look upon these unselfish workers as India's real friends."

Presbyterian missionaries in the Philippines have no cause to repine over the ingathering of the past year. More than 2,000 members were received into the various churches under the seven stations of the Board. This is the largest number ever welcomed in any single year and brings the sum total of membership to about 6,500. The property interests will aggregate \$100,000, and this amount does not include a number of chapels built by the Filipinos themselves, the other denominations show a proportionate increase in their membership.

One of the most promising mission fields today is Korea. Despite political changes and unrest, Christianity is making marked progress. The annual report of the Foreign Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., speaking of the religious movement in Korea, says: "In Pyeng Yang the revival has stirred all the schools and the churches. The churches are filled to overflowing. The Central Presbyterian Church for lack of room has had again to send off two more congregations, and now, to relieve congestion, men and women are compelled to worship at separate hours of the day. Five hundred and fifty leading women from country churches, who attended the woman's Training Class at Pyeng Yang, received a baptism of the Holy Spirit. Seventy-five theological students gathered from all parts of Korea to spend three months in theological study, were also filled with the Spirit. This means that the first ministers who are to be ordained and take their places as pastors in the Korean church will be Spirit-filled men." We must not forget that the Presbyterians of the Maritime Provinces are supporting a staff of six men and four unmarried women in Korea—besides wives of the missionaries. They are enjoying the blessing spoken of in the above report.

Rev. T. M. Hurst, who has been travelling in Europe, gives some interesting notes in the Cumberland Presbyterian on what he saw and heard in his rambles, making particular reference to the growth of public sentiment in favor of more strict observance of the Sabbath. This encouraging condition he contrasts with the growing tendency in the United States to secularize the Lord's Day. He says: "Think of it! Even in Gay Paree the grip of good Sunday laws is tightening, while in Puritanical Boston and Philadelphia the one-time honored Sabbath of the Lord is fast becoming a day of desecration and social demoralization. It may be possible that a monarchy can exist permanently without a Sabbath day, though the judgment of history does not suggest such a thing, but a republic cannot stand when the pillars on which it rests are gone. Take away the public school, the Sabbath day, the integrity of the criminal courts and the jury system and the integrity of the ballot box and our legislative bodies, and our democracy becomes anarchy. There are but three theories of government—monarchy, democracy, anarchy—and we stand in the centre with too many indications that we may turn about and face the wrong way. Waiving all questions of religious difference, the American people cannot afford to abandon the Sabbath day as a means of protection to its social and political well-being."

Punctuality comes neither by heredity nor by gift of the gods. It is resolution made practical.