

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 per Annum.

BELLEVILLE, MONTREAL, TORONTO.

Single Copies, 5 Cents

Note and Comment

In the Royal Albert Hall, London, on Tuesday evening of last week 10,000 persons protested against the use of the mass and confessional in the Church of England.

Lord Salisbury's recent speech in the House of Lords contained a notable negative remark concerning conscription. He said he did not think they would see compulsory service in England "in the life of the youngest here present."

The British cabinet is composed of 19 members. Of these 17 are upwards of 50 years of age; 11 are 60 and over; 4 are beyond 70 years of age. The Interior calls attention to these facts as a warning to those who want to get rid of old ministers.

Rev. Dr. Radcliffe, pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C.—the church which claims to have more congressional members than any other here—has been called upon to decide that progressive eucharist in the church parlors, at church socials, is not quite the proper thing from a Presbyterian view-point.

We are rejoiced to learn that there is increasing religious inquiry in France. Recently, at Provins, a little town of Seine-et-Marne, not far from Paris, several of the inhabitants have joined in a letter to a local paper, saying that though Roman Catholics by birth, they desire spiritual light, and wish to hear a Protestant preacher concerning the principles of Protestant belief.

Thomas MacKellar of Philadelphia, died a few days ago. He was a printer, type founder and poet, and an earnest and strenuous friend of the Temperance reformation. One of his hymns is in our Hymnal, and a very good one it is. "All alone the Master walketh by the toiling servants' side," etc. He was for sixty-seven years a communicant of the Presbyterian Church.

During the nineteenth century English speaking peoples have increased from 116 to 630 millions, German from eighty to 210 millions, Russian from eighty-five to 233, and French from fifty-two to eighty-seven millions. The speaking of English has advanced nearly twice as much as any other language. Is English to become the universal tongue? is a question some are discussing.

The Twentieth Century Club offers a \$500 prize for the best architect's plan for a tenment that will give both owner and renter the most possible for their money. The goal usually sought is to utilize every inch of space and sacrifice light and ventilation. But people pay rent for light and ventilation as well as for floor-space. One of these days we shall have homes for the working classes, built fit for kings.

A London paper says that Gen. Buller was once in company with Lord Charles Beresford, coming down the Nile, and as their boat approached the first cataract a sharp discussion arose as to which was the proper channel to take. The soldier advised one, the sailor another, but in the end Buller's channel was followed, with perfect success. "You see I was right," the general exclaimed exultantly. "What of that?" retorted Beresford; "I knew it was the right one myself, and I only recommended the other because I knew you would oppose whatever I said."

Disturbances in Shaantung have been greatly fomented by the interference of Roman Catholics in judicial proceedings. In quarrels between the heathen and those who call themselves Roman Catholic, it is the policy of the priests to support their "side," and they have often done this when right and justice were with the heathen, a course which naturally creates enmity and throws contempt on Christianity. Protestant missions suffer therefrom as well as Catholic.

It is with a strange delight that we read of the recent progress of Protestantism in such a Roman Catholic country as Austria. During the last six months, the Protestant churches there received 3,446 members, and of these 3,275 were from the Roman Catholic Church. On the other hand there was a reflex movement from Protestantism to Romanism, but it numbered only about 382. And this abandoning of Romanism is going on even in Vienna, where Protestantism gained 1,269 members in the last half year.

At the Moscow, on the retreat from Moscow, the French lost 30,000 men; at the battle of Leipzig in 1813, the French losses were 65,000 in three days. At Austerlitz the French lost 28,800 men; at Plevna 18,000 to 20,000 Russians were killed and wounded. At Gravelotte, the German loss was over 20,000 and the French lost 19,000. The aggregate of the losses at the battle of Stone River in the American civil war was 13,249 on the Federal side, and 10,266 on the Confederate side; at Gettysburg, a large number were killed and 14,497 wounded on the Federal side, while the Confederates lost 2,592 dead and 12,760 wounded. From this it will be seen that the casualties of the British army in South Africa are not excessive.

It is said that once Mendelssohn came to see the great Fae'burg organ. The old custodian refused him permission to play upon the instrument, not knowing who he was. At length, however, he reluctantly granted him leave to play a few notes. Mendelssohn took his seat, and soon the most wonderful music was breaking forth from the organ. The custodian was spellbound. He came up beside the great musician, and asked his name. Learning it, he stood humiliated, self-condemned, saying, "And I refused you permission to play upon my organ!" There comes One to us, and desires to take our lives and play upon them. But we withhold ourselves from Him, and refuse Him permission, when if we would yield ourselves to Him, He would bring from our souls heavenly music.

Spain seems to have learned nothing recently. The bishops of that country have lately issued a manifesto intolerant enough to suit the dark ages. It demands that only Catholic text-books shall be used, that public instruction must be Catholic, that no ecclesiastic be punished by the civil courts, that all ecclesiastical privileges be restored, that all associations not Catholic be forbidden, and practically demands the prohibition of all Protestant marriages. These extreme positions have been taken by the great body of Catholic dignitaries in Spain, including two cardinals and a long list of bishops, and they are pressing their claims upon the Queen Regent. What her action will be is not clear. Surely a nation that can take such positions to-day, and learns nothing from her recent sorrowful past, must be hastening to final ruin. And yet we have Protestants in America, as well as in England, who deplore the sending of missionaries to Roman Catholic countries.

The only Protestant country in the world where Catholics and Jews are excluded from all rights of citizenship is the Transvaal Republic. And yet with the inconsistency of human nature there is no country in the world to-day about which the Roman Catholic press is so effusively affectionate as the Transvaal Republic. The Jews take a more practical view of things.

In St. Martin's town hall, London, an exhibition of relics of Livingstone was recently opened. The extreme modesty of David Livingstone rendered the gathering of these mementoes of the great explorer very difficult. One of the principal objects of the exhibition is to put before travellers, or residents of unhealthy districts, specimens of appropriate articles of outfit which are likely to assist in the preservation of health.

Twenty-seven priests in Austria have signified their desire to withdraw from the Roman Catholic if they can secure places in the reformed "Old Catholic" church. But the government refuses to recognize and support the latter movement as a religious body. It is said that the "away from Rome" movement is marked by a strong tendency towards Lutheranism. "The people everywhere demanded Lutheran preachers and called for Bibles and Lutheran books of instruction and edification. These cries came from all parts of the empire. Since the movement really began, not more than a year ago, more than 7,000 persons have left the Roman Catholic church and become Lutherans. The Lutheran Success of Vienna reports 3,000 accessions and that of Bohemia a like number."

Such facts as these, says Missionary Review, which relate to the United Presbyterian Church, but have an application to almost every denomination, may well lead to great searchings of heart: "The net gain in the membership of our Church in this country for the past year was only 343. In our mission in Egypt the net gain for the year 1898 was 438, or 95 more than for the whole Church in the United States and Canada. The amount appropriated by the General Assembly for the entire work in Egypt was \$78,000. The amount expended in America was \$1,521,689. The contrast is very striking. The net gain in membership in the Presbyterian Church in the United States for the year ending May, 1899, was 803. The gain in her foreign missions 5351, or only 2679 less than that of the entire Church at home.

A Racine minister brought suit against two well-to-do young men to collect his fees for marrying them to the girls of their choice. That preacher deserves to lose his fees because of his lack of adherence to business methods. Marrying couples is strictly C.O.D. A marriage license is not lawful by itself. To be legalized it requires a \$10 bill pinned across the face or it. In beautiful contrast with those young Raceonians we hear of a young Chicagoan who put a ten dollar bill along with the license. After the ceremony he was observed gazing on his bride and then glancing at the minister, "Here parson, here's another \$5. She's worth it." Another period of meditation came him, when he again accessed the preacher, "Here parson, I swear I don't want to cheat you, here's \$10 more." The same symptoms came over him a third time, but while he was fumbling in his hip-pocket where he had stored his honey-moon money, the preacher retreated.