

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

The Transvaal has been formally proclaimed a part of the British Empire.

The last of the plague sufferers has been dismissed from the hospital at Glasgow.

Flowers bloom in the Sandwich Islands all the year round; therefore, it is believed that that country is more deserving than Japan of the title "Flowerly Kingdom."

A man who lives up to his income in his most prosperous years is certain to regret his prodigality when lean years come. And the same can safely be said of a nation.

A report is again being circulated by the Continental Press that the Princess Victoria, of Wales, is to marry her cousin, Prince George of Greece, Governor of Crete.

Miners in several anthracite collieries where work was resumed struck again, excessive docking being alleged in one case, violation of wage agreement in another and refusal to reinstate union engineers.

The Philippine commission have proclaimed a civil commission act by which offices in the Philippines will be filled on the basis of honesty and efficiency of officers. Promotion will be granted for continued faithful service.

In the South of China some outbreaks have occurred and are causing some uneasiness. But as the Viceroy of the affected provinces have shown a readiness to suppress the rebels, action by the powers has not been regarded as necessary.

At Queen's University the following scholarships in theology have been awarded:—N. Strathern Dow, \$75; D. M. Solandt, East Berkshire, Vt.; Buchan No. 1, \$65; R. H. Fotheringham, Rothsay; Buchan No. 2, \$55; William Moore, Carleton Place.

Sir Thomas Lipton captured \$350,000 from the pockets of Americans who were willing to agree to sell him pork at a certain price when they did not own a single barrel of it. He had secured control of the available supply and dictated the price to suit himself.

Scotland has 1,000,000 more gallons of whiskey in bond this year than it had in 1898, says the Licensed Victuallers' Gazette. Here is an interesting problem for social reformers. Does this indicate that there are fewer drinkers or that the manufacture is larger?

It has been said that there is not a single noble family in England that is not mourning the death of a relative killed in the Transvaal. Even the Queen is not an exception, has several more or less distant connections of Her Majesty's large relationship have been killed.

Charlotte Brontë's widower, Rev. Arthur B. Nichols, is now over eighty years of age, and spends most of his time attending to his land business at Banagher, Ireland. Though married again he always observes the anniversaries of his first wife's birth and death.

The policy of the Victorian Government includes the reduction of the salary of the Governor to £5,000 per annum, reductions in the numbers of the Legislative Council and Assembly, and a reduction of the numbers of Ministers from ten to eight, with a salary of £1,000 a year each.

A Christian Endeavor society has been operating at Cape Nome, Alaska, under Presbyterian auspices, and has resulted in the organization of a Presbyterian church by Rev. Lyman Scroggs, Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., assisted in the organization, and Governor Brady was present.

It is officially announced that the total population of the United States for 1900 is 76,295,220, being an increase of 13,225,464 as compared with 1890. The Indians, who are included in the census, number 134,158.

The U. S. fish commission steamer Albatross has succeeded in dragging the sea bottom at the depth of 4,200 fathoms, which is 1,200 fathoms deeper than was ever before done. It was ascertained that below 500 fathoms in depth the water has a uniform temperature of 35 degrees Fahrenheit.

Perhaps the most famous man in China to-day is Sir Robert Hart, K. C. B., the inspector-general of customs. The November Atlantic has a most interesting and timely paper on this distinguished man by H. C. Whittelsey, who served under him for some years in the Chinese customs service.

Prof. Raleigh, in his inaugural lecture in Glasgow University, emphasized the importance of the study of the history of English literature and deplored the absence of a worthy history of the kind. If such a history could be produced anywhere, he said, surely the materials for its production were to be found in the literary schools of the Universities.

The Archbishop of Canterbury says he can remember how, in the University of Oxford, a change was brought about by the influence of a really great man—of whom many now speak in condemnation, which is in some respects perhaps deserved. Mr. Gladstone is the man who put a stop to excessive drinking in that university when he was a member of it.

The Queen has decided that on the occasion of the opening of the first Parliament of the Australian Commonwealth the guard of honour of the Duke of York shall be representative of every arm of the British army, including the Volunteers. The Victoria and St. George's Rifle Corps have been chosen to represent the whole Volunteer force.

It is reported from Washington that it is the conclusion of the great nations in settling the Chinese complications to hold the Imperial Government responsible for the Boxer outrages, and that the Empress is, consequently, to be excluded in the reorganization of the Government of the empire. The indemnity question is also receiving attention.

The government of Holland gives ample assurances that Kruger will not be allowed to pursue a propaganda in favor of the extinct African Republic while he is living in Holland. In fact, the one of the Holland authorities is now exceedingly friendly towards Great Britain. The Belgian authorities have intimated that no demonstration in favor of Kruger will be allowed in Belgium.

What next? Mrs. Howard Gould was sued by her New York dressmaker, and demanded a jury of women to decide on alleged misfits, etc.; but the unchivalrous court was adamant, and refused on the ground that "although man is as ignorant of the technicalities of women's dresses as the babe unborn, it would imperil the foundations of justice to admit women to the jury box. Here ends the woman's movement."

Although it is impossible to calculate Mr. Kruger's total wealth, there is evidence that it must amount to several millions sterling. Most of it is said to be invested in Dutch, Belgian, and German securities. It is said that Mrs. Kruger was left behind with a very poorly filled purse, and that, when she applied for a remittance to her refugee husband, he coolly expressed the conviction that her British hosts would see to her comfort. The older he grows and the larger his income (says one who knows Oom Paul) the more invertebrate became his miserliness.

A powerful and determined movement is reported in Germany against every species of alcoholic liquors. Scientists, professors of medicine, physicians, medical directors of hospitals, insane asylums and prisons, and others whose calling obliges them to make a specialty of social pathology, are concerned in the movement. Germans are learning what Bismarck long ago said, that "beer makes stupid."

In the course of a debate in the Second Division of the Court of Session, a somewhat amusing conversation took place between bench and bar. The year 1815 was mentioned as the date when a distillery was started in Haddington, whereupon Lord Young observed that the most of the distilleries in the south of Scotland were started after that date. Lord Trayner asked if the people made their own whiskey before that time. Lord Young said there was no whiskey in Scotland in the days of Rob Roy. Mr. Ure—The Linlithgow distillery was started in 1760. Lord Young—That was after the days of Rob Roy.

In the United States they are deploring a remarkable falling-off in the demand for copies of the Bible; indeed, so great is the decrease, that the society which for three-quarters of a century has been the chief means of distributing the Scriptures in the United States is getting into low water, and there is talk of transferring the business premises from New York to some provincial place where expenses would be lighter. In spite of a great reduction in price, over 400,000 fewer Bibles and Testaments are now sent out by the American Bible Society than was the case even five years ago. The receipts of the society have diminished by one-half. The British and Foreign Bible Society is enjoying quite a different experience.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture is to be congratulated on the quality and condition of the trial shipment of grapes recently received in great Britain. Mr. Morgan, a leading authority on fruit matters, says:—"I have this day received sample crates of the black and red Rogers grapes put up in crates containing twelve boxes each. They were perfectly sound, with the bloom on, and in every way most satisfactory. I have brought them to the notice of several press and fruit trade men, and they have expressed a very high appreciation of them. The boxes, both as regards style, size and appearance, could not be improved upon. The crates were highly suitable for the purpose. I am certain that this important part of the business is as near perfection for the requirements of the trade—both wholesale and retail—as could possibly be." If like care is exercised in every other department of our trade, in butter, cheese, apples, bacon, etc., similar satisfactory results will be obtained.

In a recent sermon which is published in full in The Vancouver World of the 2nd inst., the Rev. E. D. McLaren, B. D., of St. Andrew's church, vigorously denounced the Canadian system of making appointments to certain positions in the public service. His contention is, that such appointments should be made on the ground of intellectual and moral fitness, and not as a reward for party services, and with the view of diminishing the bitterness of party strife and preventing the possibility of charges of partiality or corruption being brought against our parliamentary representatives, he urges the abolition of the system of party patronage and the filling of all appointments to public office in the hands of the permanent heads of the various departments of the civil service. The question is one of great importance and deserves the earnest consideration of men of all shades of political belief. The reform suggested is certainly a very radical one, and many objections may be urged against its adoption. It is quite evident, however, that we must either revert to the dignified system followed in Great Britain where the civil service is entirely separated from party politics, or be content to drift into the "spoils system" of the United States—a system that the great majority of Canadians regard as utterly objectionable.