

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

Paulham, the aviator, made a cross-country flight near Paris in which he traveled nine and nine tenths miles in eight minutes.

For its missionary work the Methodist church in the United States proposes to raise \$3,000,000 for 1909, \$4,000,000 for 1910, \$5,000,000 for 1911, and \$6,000,000 for 1912.

At Gross-Messerschitz, Austria, during maneuvers of army, sixty horses stampeded as result of the "enemy" throwing a searchlight on them, ran through the camps, killing one and injuring many sleeping soldiers.

At London Captain Scott, who led an expedition in 1902, appealed through the press for funds for another expedition in search of the south pole, to be entered upon next July or August.

Mr. Karl Kogler, of Vienna, an insurance expert, in explaining why there ought to be a different rate on insurance on workmen who are total abstainers and those who are not, says: "Alcohol increases the number of diseases, lengthens the time of sickness, shortens life, aggravates the effect of wounds and causes premature incapacity." Pretty strong argument this against the use of alcohol.

A Roman Catholic writer states that there are about 4,800 parochial schools in the United States with an average attendance of 230, or about a million in all. He adds that there are several million Catholics who do not live up to their faith because they were not sent to the parish school and that if these schools were closed to-day in 20 years the Catholic population would probably not be more than half what it is now.

Recent statistics, official and authentic, dispose in a most gratifying way of previous reports which have rather discredited the great revival which visited Wales six years ago. There has been a net gain in the membership of four denominations of 67,431, as compared with their membership previous to the revival. It is stated that the blessings of the revival continue to be apparent not only in increased numbers but in the development of spiritual life.

A German lawyer, who recently died at Strassburg, stipulated in his will that his body should be cremated, and the ashes should be handed over to his brother. The brother was to climb with two guides to the summit of the Gross-Glockner, one of the highest peaks in the Tyrolean Alps, carrying the ashes with him, and on reaching the top of the mountain was to scatter the ashes to the winds. This curious Alpine funeral has just taken place according to the wishes of the lawyer.

There is grim humor in Dr. Cook's challenge to the world if it shall not believe his story. "I buried a brass tube containing an American flag in a block of ice. If any would know whether I was there or not, let him go and find the flag." That is worthy of Mark Twain, very properly remarks the Westminister of Philadelphia. For two hundred years men have been striving to do what Dr. Cook has done. It cost him six weeks of dash early in 1908 to achieve the object of his ambition, and a year and five months of battle against the ice blockade to return to his base of operations. Will it require an equal period of two hundred years for the world to test the truth of the story by finding the brass tube? And when two hundred years have sped, where will be the ice-block mausoleum of that buried brass tube?

King Edward has now completed his "cure" at Marienbad, and has authorized Dr. Ott, his physician, to make the following statement:—After a thorough examination of the King, which I made, I am very happy to state that the King enjoys perfect health. In every respect his strength is similar to that of a sound man ten years his junior, and, having known the King for ten years, I have no hesitation in saying that he astonishes a medical man by his robust constitution and vigor. The cure in every direction was a great success.

The attention given to "labor day" in religious journals is a good omen, says the United Presbyterian. Prominence was given to articles, editorial or contributed, sometimes both, speaking in sympathetic and approving terms of the efforts making by labor organizations for alleviation of the conditions under which many toilers are yet compelled to exist. There appears to be a growing recognition on the part of labor organizations that the churches and pastors are their friends and co-workers in all lawful efforts for the improvement of the conditions of toilers of all kinds.

In a fascinating series of articles, entitled "The Far East Re-visited," a special correspondent of "The Times" gives some most interesting details of the awakening of China. Change is everywhere. It is no unusual thing nowadays to meet Chinese officials of high rank dining at foreign houses. Even some Chinese ladies have begun to exchange visits with foreign ladies, and at the Palace Hotel, which is very largely frequented by the Chinese, I saw (says the correspondent) two Manchurian ladies of high degree come in with their children and order five o'clock tea in the hall with the same ease of manner as if they had been English ladies of fashion at Ritz's or Rumpelmever's.

The discovery of the North Pole, as might be expected, starts the newspaper prophets. Here is one of them: "Eventually, of course, and perhaps before the Sun Alpha in the Little Bear, now known to us as the North Star, shall have ceased to guide the stellar spaces and made way for another star, men will have conquered this little globe, its limits and its forces. Man's genius will distribute the sun's heat and the earth's water scientifically. Excessive heat from the equator will be transferred to the Arctic and Antarctic zones." On this the New York Christian Advocate remarks: Perhaps it is too soon to consider what effect this will have on the flannel and linen industries and hot air, water and steam furnaces, stoves and grates!

Human nature at its worst has been shown in newspapers, conversations, interviews, telegrams and innuendos, by the fact of two claimants to the discovery of the North Pole. Certain newspapers have taken up the defense of one or the other and are conducting it about in the style of a conscienceless party paper just before election. Very temperately and fairly the New York Christian Advocate says: During the discussions of the past week we have seen nothing adequate to destroy belief in Dr. Cook's claim. Commander Peary is criticised in England, France, Germany, Denmark and by many in this country for his vituperative and apparently jealous spirit. His friends have done him great damage by joining in the attack, but he has forfeited sympathy. Dr. Cook, hesitating so long to produce his reports in definite shape, has suffered in popularity. We see no utility in attempting to discuss the subject until grounds of Cook's claim are scientifically presented and the antagonistic position of Peary as against that claim is fully set forth.

The New York Observer has a judicious article on the "Pros and Cons of Big Churches," meaning congregations. It pays a deserved tribute to the noble large organizations. "There is a place for very large churches, which everyone, for the sake of inspiration, should visit now and then, and where some may find their life-work. Such churches form the nuclei, or headquarters, for general campaigns of 'angelical missionary and philanthropic work, and to them the tribes periodically resort for help and to obtain new inspiration to give help. Several such churches are needed in every great metropolis—how many, circumstances should determine." Having said this it adds: "But the craze for 'Federation' and for shutting up what are contemptuously styled by some 'gospel shops,' should not be carried so far as to combine too many smaller churches into larger aggregates. Mere bigness means nothing, and serves no useful end. In most cases the smaller church is more workable, handy, united, happy, worshipful and useful. Let us be reasonable about all these matters and utilize to the full, for Christ's cause, the few big churches and the many smaller ones."

Some weeks ago we gave an outline of the statement of faith prepared by the committee of creed, working under the general committee of the Presbyterian, Congregational, Methodist and Baptist churches of South Africa, which are looking toward organic union. This general committee, which was constituted with large official powers by the joint action of the four denominations interested, at a recent meeting in Bloemfontein, received and adopted not only this report on creed but a separate report from another sub-committee on polity. The latter report provides that the united church shall elect an executive head to have general charge of stationing preachers. The congregational right of call is to be maintained, and no pastor is to be located anywhere without the congregation's consent. But when either pastor or congregation becomes dissatisfied with a pastoral relation, it shall be incumbent on the executive to effect a readjustment by transfers. He shall always manage to provide a field for each minister. Pastorates are to run without time limit, and to end only at the wish of one or the other party thereto, unless the executive considers that "the ends of the ministry" require him to interfere.

The "Youth's Companion" notes that "Israel is coming into its holy of holies, from which it has been barred for many long and bitter centuries. As one result of the new regime in Turkey all religions are officially recognized on an equal basis, and at last the Jews are allowed to enter the site of their ancient temple at Jerusalem and there worship according to their creed. Since the destruction of the second temple by the Romans under Titus, in 70 A.D., no Jew has been permitted on the spot. For a dozen centuries Moslem soldiers, stationed at the gates, have slain or turned away all who sought to enter; and the devout Jews have had no other privilege than to weep and pray outside the walls. Within the past generation visiting Christians have been allowed, under guard and for payment of a fee, to enter the beautiful Mosque of Omar which stands where the great Temple of Solomon stood and where Christ taught in its successor, which was erected after the return from the captivity. Beneath its lofty dome is the wonderful rock of numberless traditions, revered alike of Jews, Christians and Mohammedans. Late in July the Jews were allowed to enter and worship for the first time. So 1909 is a notable year in Jewish history, and the promise of the olden prophecy has come to pass."