

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

It is now definitely decided that the Australian Commonwealth shall come into being on January 1, 1901.

The Cape Colony Treason Bill provides a penalty of five years' disfranchisement for taking up arms against the Queen.

The total British losses in the South African campaign to date, exclusive of sick and wounded now in hospital, but inclusive of all deaths, invalided, and prisoners are 42,500 men.

The State of Pennsylvania is considering the advisability of opening its 100,000 acres of pure forest to consumptives. This important subject is also claiming a good deal of attention in the Province of Ontario.

The Earl of Hopetoun, the first Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, is a Presbyterian. He was Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the church of Scotland in 1887, 1888 and 1889.

There seems no end to the new religious bodies. In Asiatic Turkey there is a body of religionists who call themselves Yezidees, or devil worshippers. Believing that Satan is destined to be restored to heaven, they wish to keep on good terms with him, as they may need his friendly offices.

The South African war is about at an end, and the Boers' pertinacity in keeping up a useless struggle and loss of life savors more of sheer obstinacy than good sense. Very soon England will be free to send troops from South Africa to China, where the presence of ample force will tend to restore and preserve peace.

The congregation at Richmond, Virginia, to whom the late Dr. Moses D. Hoge ministered, have resolved to establish a post-graduate scholarship in Union Theological Seminary (Southern Presbyterian Church), where their late pastor was educated. The young minister of this old church is Rev. Dr. Guthrie, a nephew of Rev. Principal MacVicar, D. D., Montreal.

Li Hung Chang has left Canton with many smooth words on his lips, and it is possible, of course, that his mission to the north may be peaceable both in intention and result. But with Li nothing should be taken on trust. With Li's record before us, says the Standard, the gravest doubts as to his real purpose are justifiable, and it is as likely that his intention is to put himself at the head of the movement as to stem its course.

As the war nears its close, people in the old land are talking more and more of its forthcoming rewards. Lord Roberts' fate has been pretty well decided for him if one may take the current gossip of the London military clubs. That he will be offered a Dukedom seems to be a foregone conclusion, and the grant of money that will accompany the titular honors, are put down, at a prediction, as certainly not less than £100,000.

In Dr. Parker's congregation the men predominate. This a noteworthy fact. It shows the strong hold he has upon the business and literary mind. Though he is 70 years of age, his church is crowded, and his vigor shows no perceptible abatement. He has been an unique preacher, wielding a remarkably intellectual as well as spiritual power. His preaching on the whole, has been evangelical and evangelistic, and his career indicates that there is nothing like the Gospel, when ably and truly presented, to hold men as well as women year after year.

A pamphlet entitled "Unitarian Use of the Name Presbyterian," from the pen of Rev. A. H. Drysdale, of Morpeth, has been adopted for circulation, and will be at the disposal of those desiring it. The association of "Presbyterian" and "Unitarian" is said to be confined to some parts of England and the North of Ireland. The explanation of how it arose is the aim of the booklet. Unitarians in the North of Ireland have a Presbyterian form of government.

When the Queen received the Endeavourers from America at Windsor, she was dressed in white thin summer clothing, and, as the Endeavourers said, looked "just beautiful." There was a white feather in her hat, and she had on a long white shawl. The Christian Endeavour delegates, as a whole, are much pleased with their visit to England, but no episode has given them such genuine delight as the gracious way—"motherly," as one of them termed it—in which the Queen drove among those of their number who visited Windsor.

The Religious Tract Society have undertaken, at the request of the Publication Committee of the Oecumenical Conference of Foreign Missions, to publish the Official Report of the great meetings held in New York from April 21st to May 22nd, 1900. A strong committee of literary experts have combined to produce what they trust will prove to be a standard missionary book. The leading papers and speeches will be given in full, but a large portion of the Conference proceedings has been severely edited so as to retain only what is judged to be of permanent value.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's recent speech in the House of Lords on ritual is generally recognised to be conciliatory, and his clear statement that the bishops are still hoping to bring all the clergy into line is understood to be an indication that at the last meeting of the prelates at Lambeth considerable progress towards obedience was reported. But the most important declaration by the Primate was in relation to the policy of prosecution. He said that he would interpose no difficulties in the way of a prosecution in cases in his diocese where the Lambeth decisions were disobeyed. The significance of this statement is that it represents a complete departure from what has been understood to be the settled policy of the bishops.

The last circular from the banking house of Henry Clews of New York, contains the following: "The Chinese situation displays distinct improvement. It is now known that early reports of carnage and murder were much exaggerated; that while the Chinese have shown some duplicity, still the course of the Powers is now clearly towards rescue of the Legations and the enforcement of an orderly and capable government in place of the one now existing in Peking. Now that the march to Peking has commenced, we may expect some stirring news and possibly further bloodshed; nevertheless, the outlook for a solution of the Chinese question without a disastrous war is brighter than at any time since the troubles began; and the financial situation abroad must be correspondingly relieved."

At the great C. E. Convention says the London Presbyterian, the hammer employed by William Carey was used to give the signal when the speaker's time had expired. Perhaps some may suggest that the hammer was never better employed. But the hammer reminds us of the great new founder of missions in the modern sense—a man sprung from the lowest ranks, yet used as a mighty champion of the truth. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to a shoemaker, at twenty-five he was Baptist minister, at thirty-two he was in the foreign field in India. What a spectacle it is—that unlettered man tackling the learned Brahmin on his own soil, becoming Oriental Professor at Calcutta, and publishing valuable grammars and dictionaries of Bengali, Maharrata, Sanscrit and other languages. God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.

Mr. William Drysdale, so long and so favorably known in connection with the book trade of Montreal, has purchased the St. Catherine street branch of the estate of the William Drysdale Company, and will make that place his headquarters for the future. A post-office has been established there; and, under such favourable circumstances, we trust the business may go on and prosper.

"Get back to the land," we are told, and the advice is good, remarks the Monetary Times. A number of Toronto people, including some street car men, intend to go to New Ontario and take up farming. Most of those who have decided to make the move are men who have graduated from the farm to the city, and ended up in the employ of the railway company. It is said that a dozen are about ready to go, and have decided upon the Temiscamingue district as the place where they will start their little colony.

The appointment of the Lord Advocate, Mr. A. G. Murray, Q. C., M. P., by the Prince of Wales, to be Keeper of the Great Seal of His Royal Highness's Principality of Scotland, is a reminder that the eldest son of the Sovereign of Scotland has for centuries been Prince of Scotland. The principality or appanage of the Prince of Scotland consists of lands in the shires of Ayr, Renfrew and Ross; it has been a principality since the time of Robert III., and is personal to the king's eldest son. It is known technically to Scots lawyers as a "regality jurisdiction." It is with reference to the management of these lands that the office just filled up exists. The Prince of Wales is also Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles, and great steward of Scotland.

Describing a tour through the famine districts of India, the special correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian" says: "Of the great and constant flowing canals, whose shaded banks are the pleasantest refuges the plains can offer you in the hot weather, it can only be said that they have done so magnificently well that the failure to extend them faster is nothing less than a tragedy. I say nothing at the moment of their financial success, except that they are by far the best investment that the government of India has ever made. They have largely extended the cultivation of new crops such as rice and sugarcane, they have given India a permanent granary, and they have opened up huge tracts of desert country to cultivation, relieving the congested districts in the process."

The Times has given biographical notices of Sir Claude Macdonald, Sir Robert Hart, and Dr. G. E. Morrison. In the notice of Sir Claude Macdonald, it is mentioned in connection with his recent illness, that though the last reports from Peking showed him to have recovered both his strength and spirits, the Foreign Office was contemplating the desirability of offering him another post in a more suitable climate, when the present disastrous crisis occurred. Of Sir Robert Hart, it is stated that early in 1885 he was offered by Earl Granville the post of British Minister at Peking, "and he began by accepting it." But he never actually took up the appointment, and within three months he formally placed his resignation in the hands of Lord Salisbury, who had in the meantime succeeded at the Foreign Office. Of Dr. Morrison's career of adventure many remarkable incidents are told. Some years ago he was appointed to take charge of a small pioneer expedition in New Guinea. "The expedition was a failure, and for Morrison it turned out a disaster. He was wounded in the bush by two native spears, and, with the heads sticking in him, was left for dead. Fortunately he was soon picked up and made a wonderful recovery, though it was not until nine months afterwards that the second spear-head was taken out of his body. This marvellous feat of surgery was performed by Professor Chiene of Edinburgh." While he was in Professor Chiene's hands, Morrison, by way of filling up his time, continued at Edinburgh University his medical studies begun at Melbourne, and in 1887 he took his M.B. and C.M. degrees."