

Dominion Presbyterian

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Liebig, the great chemist, says: "There is more nourishment in a much flour as will lie on a tableknife than in nine quarts of beer."

The Belgian Parliament has almost unanimously approved the law forbidding the sale and manufacture of absinthe in Belgium. A movement has also been started in France to introduce a similar law there.

The C.P.R. has decided to adopt the telegraphone, a new invention by which telegraph wires can be used for temporary telephonic purposes without disturbing telegraphic work. The officials have made experiments with this mechanism on a special train.

The train was stoned and telephonic connection established with Montreal and other stations within a few minutes, strung a wire from the telephonic instrument in the car to the telegraph wires. Thus, should any mishap occur to a train in a district remote from stations and telegraph instruments, almost instantaneous telephonic connection could be established.

A wealthy lady of New York has chosen a unique field for philanthropy in establishing a monthly magazine for the blind printed "bricked type." It will be sent gratuitously to any blind person who cares for it. Such a magazine is published in Edinburgh called *Hora Joecunda*. A jound hour it will be for the afflicted ones when they finger their own new magazine for the first time.

Goderich Signal:—A man who ought to know informs us that through the country districts with which he is familiar the most unpopular two Parliamentary enactments are the teachers' salary legislation and the Ottawa indemnity grab. There is at least one important difference between the two—the teachers did not vote themselves the increased salaries.

While waiting for developments in the religious situation in France, where each side seems to be hoping that the other will do something that will relieve the tension, there is much to engage attention in the old Roman Catholic country of Spain. Judging from appearances and from apparently trustworthy reports, that country is ripe for a revolt against papal authority more remarkable than any that has occurred elsewhere. Its former loyalty to the Pope, and its freedom in the past from successfully organized Protestant movements, make the present conditions particularly significant.

On the Indian frontier an Afghan mulah has been led to Christ by an Afghan Christian farmer, and was baptized on Christmas Day. A yellow-robed and long-bearded Hindu devotee, who used to distract the worship of the little congregation in the heathen town of Tinnevely by his noisy drumming outside, and had to be "moved on" by the police, was baptized in December in that very church. Another baptism of a Brahman student in Noble college is reported, accompanied by the same distressing opposition and hostile devices that marked the early baptisms 50 years ago and often since, but not accompanied, as in former days, by the emptying of the college, for Christian ex-Brahmans are not now uncommon, and when an Indian church council in 1906 appoints as pastor of the Lucknow Christian congregation an ex-Brahman clergyman who first learned of Christ in the Lucknow C.M.S. high school, few realize the immense significance of the act.

Arthur Sherwell, in his "Drink Peril in Scotland," has a chapter on the growth of alcoholic insanity in Scotland. Having traced this growth of insanity to alcoholism, he produces the terrific figures that, while the population has increased since 1858 but forty-nine per cent., insanity has increased 180 per cent.

A special Press dispatch says Mr. John D. Rockefeller has sent word to the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church that he would give \$100,000 towards education work in Egypt and the Soudan. The question is now up to these brethren as to whether or not this is "Tainted Money," remarks the Presbyterian Standard.

A correspondent of The Christian Evangelist thinks that it would be advantageous and economical for every church to see to it that a copy of a religious denominational paper is going to every family. He thinks that the attendance at church services would be better and that the financial result would justify such an outlay.

Dr. Westcott, a London coroner, remarked the other day that on no account should a weapon with which a suicide had been committed be returned. "People," he said, "brood over such weapons and the fascination drives them to imitate the suicide." Such, he said, had been the experience of other coroners.

A "world's conference on the Christian principles of civil government" will be held by the National Reform Association in Philadelphia, in October, 1909. The discussions will include the question of the attitude of the Governments of the earth on the observation of the Sabbath, the suppression of the liquor traffic, the guarantee of the rights of the oppressed and similar questions. It is hoped that all civilized lands will be represented by delegates and uncivilized portion of the earth by active missionaries.

At a meeting in London a short time ago, held for the purpose of ventilating the Congo outrages, one speaker said it was computed that from 1,500,000 to 3,000,000 people had been done to death in the Congo. Horrors were inevitable under a system behind which there was one great personality, one calculating brain, one ruthless, relentless hand, with a heart cruel as the grave—King Leopold. One missionary who described some outrages said he sometimes wondered whether Leopold was a devil incarnate. Dr. Clifford said the country had been a veritable hell, and Leopold the demon ruling over it.

The Nashville Advocate says that no Church can be strong that fails to develop great laymen. And the Presbyterian Standard endorses the statement with a "just so" and adds: "That has been a strong point in Presbyterian polity. The stern, strong men in the Scottish pews—while their criticism sometimes savored of the inquisition did more to develop the man in the pulpit than did the theological classes, and so it has come to be that a Presbyterian man who is not a helpful influence in community is unworthy of his heritage. He is usually a man four-square, with hard head, warm heart, straight spine and strong limbs."

The Chicago Interior of a recent date tells a most encouraging story of the progress of the church work in Korea under control of the Presbyterian Church. Missionaries there seem to be convinced that, though Korea is sometimes sneered at as decadent, neither "militant" Japan nor "literary" China can show such a record of Christian activity, intelligence, and success as has been given the world by the Presbyterian Church in many ports of the Hermit Kingdom.

We do not remember reading a better statement of the objections to State religion of any kind than is made by Mr. G. W. E. Russell, a member of the Church of England, in a recent letter in favor of the disestablishment of the Church in Wales. He says: "I object to establishment because it creates a social and political inequality between different bodies of Christians; because it subjects a spiritual society to the control of a secular, and, in part, unbelieving Parliament; and because it creates a false conscience in the nation, by encouraging the notion that national religions consists in something else than the personal piety of individual men and women. It will be great triumph for Welsh nationalism when we see the Welsh Sees united as an independent and national Church, choosing her own Bishops, regulating her own worship, and free from all the degrading subjections which establishments involve."

The work of the representatives of the churches in Toronto last week has advanced the union movement a step farther, remarks the Kingston News. The remarkable thing about it is the comparative ease with which agreement has been reached on all important points. For this, of course, there has been a long preparation in the churches themselves. They have been gradually coming nearer in points of doctrine. Their scholars have been studying the same Book, and as the light broke more fully over its pages, the meaning was better understood, and the unity of its teachings seen. The benefit to Canada and Christianity from a fusion of the Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists can hardly be overestimated. It will mean the closing of a number of churches that are not requisite for the religious needs of the communities in which they are placed, the better support of those that remain, the doing away with hurtful rivalry and the setting free of a number of clergymen for the manning of home and foreign mission fields. It is to be hoped that there will be no unnecessary delay in pushing the scheme through.

A mother, in a Pennsylvania town, whose daughter had become a devotee of "bridge-whist," playing continually in the home of one of the prominent society women of the town, recently brought charges against the hostess that resulted in a fine for maintaining gambling. The fine was a nominal one—only five dollars—but one of the significant features of the affair, and one which it is well to note, is that the fair defendant "on the advice of her attorneys" pleaded guilty, and paid her fine! The Lutheran Observer appropriately remarks: "It would be well if some other mothers, and husbands and wives, too, as well as town officials, would bring like actions, and the real status of society gambling and church-fair gambling, as practiced in some quarters, were defined in such a way that well-meaning people would not be deceived as to their character." Is there any "bridge" gambling in Ottawa?