

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Notes and Comments

Dr Chavasse, the new Bishop of Liverpool, has been a total abstainer for twenty nine years.

When the railway across Siberia is completed, it will be easy for a person to go from London to Japan in 18 days.

The Duke of Argyll was the last survivor of the Cabinet of Lord Aberdeen which was responsible for the Crimean war.

"Blackwood" quotes this opinion of one who knows the Boers—"The Boer woman is one of the most narrow-minded and most animal-natured of the human race."

There are two bills before the U.S. Congress providing for Postal notes such as we have had in Canada for over a year. One of the bills will likely pass, and one will surely be enough.

The news comes from Mafeking that three-penny postage stamps have been issued in the town on photographic paper, displaying Col. Baden-Powell's head in the centre. Such a stamp will have an extremely fancy value in a few years.

The late duke of Argyll was devoted to his home at Inverary, and his last hours were vexed with the illusion that he was dying away from it. "They showed him the place from his window—the loch, the hills the garden, and the woods. It is very like said, he, take me home."

Every year a number of boys are sent from Siam by the King to England to learn different things. One learns upholstery, one type-writing, one learns languages, one learns science, and so on. When they return to Siam each takes with him some different information to impart to others.

The bad effect of money in the pocket of a young man is stated by the Utica Press as follows: "No man with money will work hard enough, when he is young, to succeed. He needs to begin work early, work hard, and sit many hours in one place. If he has money, he won't sit long in one place."

Rev. Dr. Parker, of London, does not think Rev. Mr. Sheldon's newspaper experiment has been a brilliant success. He says, "For a week you can do almost anything with success, provided it is foolish enough. I could fill St. Paul's Cathedral to overflowing by promising to swallow the pulpit Bible."

Most of the guns fired by the Boers at Kimberley gave a certain amount of warning of the shells they were about to drop into the town. Not so the Schneider guns which fired their shells with such velocity that the sound of their report and the shell itself arrived at the same moment! "These," wrote one of the besieged inhabitants, "were the guns we feared most."

Dr. E. J. Banks, recently United States consul at Bagdad, is the director of an expedition now being formed to excavate Ur, the birthplace of Abraham. The work is undertaken for the benefit of the Smithsonian Institution. The estimated amount required for the complete excavation of Ur in two years is \$50,000.

Like most women of taste, her Majesty is a lover of beautiful lace, and has had every opportunity of indulging this taste during her visit to the Irish capital. The Queen is also a constant and devoted patron of another Irish industry—fine linen. Our Sovereign has never permitted cotton articles to be used in the Royal palaces, even the kitchen cloths being of flax.

The eclipse of the sun was successfully observed May 28th at the Toronto Observatory, contact times and numerous photographs were taken, weather perfect, diminution of light very marked, as was the heat, self-registering sun recorder failing to mark; time of contact, 7 hours, 51 minutes, 35 seconds, being five seconds earlier than computed time; last contact, 10.16.54, being seven seconds earlier.

According to Lord Robert's reports on discipline show a remarkable contrast between convictions of abstainers and non-abstainers. Among abstainers the convictions were 4.12 in the 1000, while among non-abstainers they were 33.38 in 1000, or about nine times as many. Thus drinking men are nine times as apt to break the law as non-drinkers. "It is not," Lord Roberts added, "a friendly thing to give drink to soldiers."

Catholics in Ireland still labor (the Freeman's Journal claims) "under grievances innumerable and intolerable." One of these grievances is that the Jesuit and other religious orders are illegal in Ireland as in England, though the law is never set in motion against them. The other grievances are that the Government does not set up a Catholic university, and that offices such as judgeships are very largely given to Protestants.

It is said that while before the war there were only three saloons in Manila, there are now four hundred there. If so, that is four hundred too many. It does seem as though the authorities in Washington might take active steps to protect the fair name of America from such a blot upon its honor. Some of the government transports too have been cash floating saloons; we cannot say with how much truth, Public sentiment should vigorously demand a reform in these matters, if such evils exist.

All anonymous circulars should be torn up, says the Christian Advocate (New York). The men who write them are not honorable or courageous, and probably trustworthy. There is much gossip of a slanderous nature. No man should receive a charge or a rumor from another against a third, from any person who will not face the man he accuses. The best way to stop such scandal is to notify its purveyor or that it will be communicated, with the authority, to the subject of it. Those who know that a man is being scandalized should inform him or his friends of it at once. Of course the discussion of qualifications is necessary; but no one should make a disparaging charge that he cannot prove and dare not support. He who hears such charges without rebuke, or passes them along, is equally guilty with the originator.

The accountant of the schemes of the church of Scotland has just completed a summary showing their income during the year ending 31st December 1899. The total income of the schemes and funds of the Church for that period was £201,041, as compared with £190,272, in 1898, an increase of £10,769. The income of the Foreign Missions Scheme in 1899 was £37,064, as against £37,642 in 1898 home missions, £12,089, compared with £13,074 the previous year.

The number of communicants on the roll of the Church of Scotland at the end of 1899 was 657,112, an increase of 7,686 over that reported to the last General Assembly. The returns bore that 477,128 communicated at least once during the year—an increase of 1,047. The number of communicants reported as having died was 9,471, being 379 more than in 1898 while the number who communicated or the first time was 27,076. The number of elders was 10,172 and the baptisms reported 39,860—199 fewer than in 1898.

Very much is said in favor of ecclesiastical courtesy. There ought to be far more of in the world than there is. Courtesy between congregations and pastors of the same denomination is commendable. The requirements of genuine ecclesiastical courtesy between different denominations ought always to be recognized and honored. It is not courteous for a minister or congregation of one Christian Church to say or do anything against another which would be a violation of the golden rule. If every minister and member of the church will carefully observe this divine rule, ecclesiastical courtesy, Christian courtesy will be universal.

It is a remarkable tribute to Presbyterian preaching, says the London, (Eng.) correspondent, of the Belfast Witness, that the two principal sermons at the "May meetings" of the Baptist Missionary Society should have been preached this year by Presbyterians. The Rev. Professor Denney, of Glasgow, preached the annual sermon of that society in Bloomsbury Chapel on Tuesday week, and on the evening of that day the Rev. Alexander Connell, of Regent Square, preached the annual sermon to young men and women. I had the pleasure of hearing Professor Denney for the first time. But for an occasional word one would hardly have known from his pronouncement that he was Scotch. His manner is simplicity itself. He preached entirely without notes, and it is no exaggeration to say that he held the attention of a large and critical audience from the beginning to the end. His subject was the three questions asked by St. Paul in Romans iii. 27-31 and the answers to them. "Where is boasting then?"—the humility which the Gospel teaches. The Cross puts us under infinite obligation to Christ, the Atonement annihilates pride. Referring to the doctrine of election, he said that the great truth therein expressed is that salvation is something outside of man. It is God's gifts. "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you," &c. The second question, "Is He the God of the Jews only? is He not also of the Gentiles?" teaches the universality of the Gospel. This gave the preacher the opportunity for a stirring appeal on behalf of Foreign Missions. And then came a vigorous defence of the practical and ethical side of Christianity in his discussion of the third question, "Do we make void the law through faith?" The Cross, he said, fulfils the requirements of morality. The law cannot be written on the heart until the heart is made tender, and this can only be done by the Cross of Christ.