

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Says the South-western Presbyterian, New Orleans: Among the graduates at Princeton Seminary was a Japanese student for the ministry. Converted at home, through the foreign missionary, and educated in America, he is to return to his fatherland as a messenger of the Gospel. Thus is being fulfilled to Zion the prediction "And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls."

The Presbyterian General Assembly of the U. S., at its Los Angeles meeting, had a report from its committee on evangelistic work. In connection with that report the chairman made the following statement: "Our work is essentially temporary. No small part of its importance is the emphasis which it places on the work of evangelism as the supreme obligations of our Church. The whole Presbyterian Church should be an Evangelistic Committee with every communicant, clerical or lay, a working member." This is the correct view. The great commission, "Go ye into all the world, etc.," is addressed to every professed follower of the Lord Jesus, and not merely to ministers of the Gospel.

Rev. R. J. Campbell, successor to the late Dr. Parker in the pastorate of the City Temple, London, is to be in the United States during the latter part of June and first of July, and, it is understood, will also spend some time in Canada. He has had wonderful success as a pastor in England. He was a personal friend of the late Dr. Parker and supplied his pulpit for a period of six months at the famous Thursday noon services of the London City Temple. Never before had such crowds thronged these mid-week gatherings. Upon the death of Dr. Parker, the church officials deemed Rev. R. J. Campbell to be his natural and best qualified successor and so extended to him the call. Since, there have been no lingering doubts as to the wisdom of their selection.

The Secretary of the U. S. navy has ordered the closing of the Puget Sound Navy Yard at Bremerton, Wash., and there is intense excitement in that city in consequence. The cause of the closing seems to be indicated by the following paragraph from the New York Tribune: "From time to time the Navy Department has had occasion to complain, because the employees at the yard and sailors from the ships were demoralized by the liquor saloons, gambling places, and other vile establishments that were licensed by the Council. Promises were made that there should be an improvement, but the Council refused to revoke the licenses of the places complained of. "This is a drastic remedy but it will probably prove effective in more ways than one. The saloon-keepers and their friends will understand the effectiveness of such a piece of boy-cotting."

Writing about the recent evangelistic services in Belfast, I., a contributor of the Witness of that city sums up the results of the campaign in the following terse sentences: "All I can say in closing is—That God has visited us, and that even with the departure of Dr. Torrey on Thursday the blessed visitation still remains. Christians have been

brought face to face with their responsibilities, sinners have been faithfully dealt with, and many have left for ever the services of Satan. The mission has demonstrated that it is possible for members of the various Protestant Churches to work together, and that unity of aim is not inseparable from distinct service." Is there any real desire existing or effort being made to secure such a blessed visitation in the cities of Canada, where revival of the Lord's work is so much needed?

The appalling catastrophe which occurred in France a few weeks ago at Motor races, resulting in the death of nine people and the wounding of many others, has drawn varied comments from the British press. The Belfast Witness has the following: "A sad and solemn feature of the sorry business is that of all days of the week Sunday was selected for this reckless exploit. We do not suggest that similar disaster might not as readily have occurred on another day, but the fact that the Day of Rest has been marked by such an awful incident must impress itself forcibly on all minds." The frequency with which drowning and other accidents occur on Sundays can hardly have escaped the attention of thoughtful people.

Some time ago cablegrams stated that the inhabitants of several districts in the Transvaal were at the moment suffering severely through protracted drought. Hundreds of families were without the means of procuring rations, and were it not that the Government were providing the same free of cost their position would be desperate. According to arrangement the free distribution of foods was to have ceased at the end of last month, but an effort was made to have the supply continued for a while longer, and no doubt it succeeded. What is the most extraordinary feature of the situation, says the Belfast Witness, is the arrant callousness of the rich Boers. There are many of them, and they show no regard whatever for the lot of their less fortunate compatriots. One is puzzled to understand this in view of the multitudinous stories told of the brotherhood said to exist throughout Boerdom, of the oneness of purpose and the rest of it. The poor Boers may thank their stars that they are not dependent upon the generosity of their richer brothers.

What may be called a remarkable crisis in South Africa is described in the New York Christian Intelligencer by L. Hofmeyr, president of the students' Christian Association of South Africa. He says that as one of the fruits of the unfortunate war, which for two years and eight months raged in South Africa, there are about two hundred young men who have offered themselves to be trained as missionaries for the foreign field. In addition to these, there are about fifty young women who have also volunteered their services. And this is not all, for the names of young men and women are still coming in as candidates for entrance to missionary training classes. Student Volunteer cards are in great demand, and the membership in the Student Volunteer Movement is still growing. As another instance of this most remarkable revival of

missionary activity, there is the fact that the circulation of "De Koningsbode"—the missionary organ of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, has within a few months increased its circulation from 2,000 to over 6,000 copies. Money is being given for missions as never before. Many Christians, who for years have opposed missions, have now confessed their sinful neglect, and are doing all in their power to make good the opportunities that have been lost.

The Herald and Presbyter pays the following compliment to the negro commissioners who were present and delivered addresses at the recent meeting of the Presbyterian General Assembly of the United States at Los Angeles, Cal.: "The time has passed when the appearance of Afro-American Commissioners before the Assembly is an occasion for extravagant and ludicrous oratory, and for laughter. The negroes who spoke on Freedmen's day, this year, are the equals, man for man, in platform power or intelligent understanding of the questions before the Assembly, of their white brethren." This statement is borne out by Prof. Falconer of the Presbyterian College, Halifax, who was present at the Los Angeles assembly in a letter to the Presbyterian Witness. He writes: "Rarely have I heard better sustained speaking than was given one night at the assembly by black ministers and elders from the Southern States. They are a proof of what Christian education can do for the blacks, though any one who has seen the work of the Moravians and Presbyterians in the West Indies, knows that the statement that the blacks are hopeless as a race is false. These men unanimously testified that Christian education is doing a great work, and they warned their hearers not to believe all the reports of evil magnified by prejudice which they read in papers often owned by those who are hostile to them."

An evangelist who has been laboring in the city of Corinth, Miss., sends the following interesting paragraph to the Christian Observer: "During my stay here I have seen the power of prayer meetings conducted by, and for, the operatives of mills. There are some woollen mills located here whose line of manufacture is gentlemen's pantaloons. Each morning for several years, three of them have opened with prayer; and this morning I attended a reunion on the fifth anniversary of one of the prayer meetings; the day was given to the operatives, after the service was concluded. I feel the power of these meetings in the evangelistic movement of this town. A finer lot of young people cannot be found in mills in any city. The proprietors are earnest, Christian gentlemen, and do not hesitate to use their influence to try to win their operatives for Christ. Why cannot more of our Christian operatives organize such prayer meetings, to open a few minutes before work, seeking to throw around each other the best and most helpful influences, and, at the same time, shielding some young man who has but recently entered upon the life of an operative in a city?" This is a beautiful as well as practical application of the spirit of the Golden Rule.