

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment

When the Duke of York was a boy he once said to his elder brother - "Oh, you'll never be a king; it'll all be done by competitive examination!"

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The Jubilee Revival in Glasgow, celebrating the work which Moody and Sankey wrought there twenty-five years ago, is proving a great blessing to the city. Rev. John McNeill is conducting daily services and vast crowds are attending.

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Tests of wireless telegraphy are being made across Lake Michigan. There is a car ferry operated by the Ann Arbor Railroad, and at present they are obliged to telegraph between the two ferry houses by way of Chicago, and the delays are enormous. It is hoped that wireless telegraphy will solve the problem of rapid communication for them.

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In Finland the newspapers have suffered severely from censorship and suppression. According to Public Opinion, a concert has been formed entitled the "Finland Newspaper Press Censure Insurance Company." It guarantees an indemnity not exceeding 60 per cent of the loss of the gross income incurred by suspension. The premium is 5 per cent of the gross income.

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A despatch from Yokohama says that a strong protest is being made by the influential section of the Buddhists against the bill for the regulation of religions. The aim of the measure is the equality of all religions under the law. It gives the death blow to any hope of having Buddhism recognized as in any sense the state religion. The large majority of the Buddhist section, however, acquiesce in the new order of things.

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The friendship between Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener is of a particularly close and intimate character. Lord Roberts sat beside Lord Kitchener in the Peers' Gallery during the whole of the debate on June 5 of last year with reference to the Kitchener grant. Lord Roberts also came over specially from Ireland to have the gratification of being one of Lord Kitchener's sponsors at the ceremony of his introduction to the House of Peers.

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Talking about his life before his conversion, Mr. Moody said that while he was a pretty bad boy in his unregenerate days, deep in the follies and errors of the world, he never broke so far away from his early religious training as to forget to say his prayers every night. "I used to sleep with my brother," he said, "and if either of us happened to jump into bed without first getting on his knees, the other would swear at him vigorously and kick him out on the floor."

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It is an interesting fact that a tunnel between the postoffice at St. Martins-le-Grand, London, and the London and Northwestern Railway station at Euston, which has lain idle for nearly forty years, is now to come into practical use. It was built in 1859 for the purpose of carrying mails, etc., to the railway station, pneumatically. The railway cost about \$900,000, but the difficulties of using pneumatic pressure on a large scale caused the project to end with failure. The power was increased from 100 to 800 horse-power, but the results were the same. The tunnel is four feet in height and four and a half feet wide. Now an electric train is to run through it, and a regular mail service between the important station and the postoffice can be maintained, the trip requiring about five minutes.

Mr. Kijling has enumerated the elementary expenses of a household as "gas and coals and vittles and the home-rent falling due." The cost of the second item in this formidable list, it is reported, is about to be seriously increased. The demand for fuel is increasing, it appears, while the supply diminishes. The diminution is ascribed partly to the prosperity of the miners, who have no need to work full time, and partly to the withdrawal of labor from the pits owing to the calling out of the Reservists and the Militia.

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In connection with the Century Fund of the Presbyterian Church the Assembly's Century Fund Committee purposes forwarding free, excepting charges for carriage, savings bank to the Sunday schools. It is suggested that in each school a special Century Fund financial secretary should be appointed, to whom the banks should be returned every three or six months. In order to lessen the expense of sending out the banks, schools will be invited to remit at the rate of \$2.50 per hundred, which is the cost price, and will include carriage. The name of every child giving or collecting for this fund will have a place in the memorial volume.

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It is stated on the authority of the Journal de Geneve, that the Protestant Church, St. Hippolyte, the largest in the Cevennes, France, is built with the stones of the fortress in which the Huguenots were imprisoned, this fortress having been built with the stones of the old church which was thrown down when Louis XIV. revoked the edict of Nantes. It is thus, in a peculiar sense, an historic church. The key which opens the principal door has this inscription on its stem: "I am one of the hinges of the fortress." This is one of the revenges of righteousness, and indicates the changes which are going on in preparing the way of the Lord. Sanctified by the use to which it is put, the hinge of the door becomes the key of the door through which the once persecuted enter the church where they now live with freedom.

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In his New Year's address, says Christian Work, the Kaiser made the Delphic remark that he would organize the German navy as his grandfather organized the Prussian army. And now Germany is asking itself what the Kaiser means, for the remark is subject to two interpretations bearing upon ways and means or technique. Without doubt, however, for the right interpretation we shall have to go back to an historical fact. When the Prussian Parliament refused Bismarck money to organize the Prussian army for the coming conflict with Austria, he advised the king to suspend the constitution and levy taxes by royal decree. The king risked his throne by his revolutionary act, which only success in war and a sudden accession of military glory and national spirit justified. But for Sadowa the present Kaiser might be consorting with the Bourbons and awaiting the Hapsburgs in some safe retreat beyond the boundary of the Prussian republic. His grandfather played a bold stroke for empire and won. There is no doubt that this is what the Kaiser means; the Reichstag has so often refused him the money he wants for his navy, then he will get it as his grandfather got money for the army. But to-day there is no Bismarck, no possible Sadowa to earn oblivion for a violation of the German constitution and an enforced taxation for furthering his ends. As a rule these things are not done twice. It would seem as if peril enough threatened the Kaiser's throne in the conditions existing, without increasing them by the Emperor's act in making enemies of his own.

A writer in the Nation, says the Cumberland Presbyterian, calls attention to the decay of literary allusion in current publications. While not spoken of generally, the fact has long been observed, not only in the novels but in the newspaper editorials. What is the cause? Does the reason lie in the fact that there is not that acquaintance with literature which once existed, or that men are concerned more with the scientific and social theories of the day? Does the author of "David Harum" make a single literary allusion or quote even once from the classics? Time was when the editors of our dailies condescended to write leaders sparkling with references to works of literature and art, glowing with allusions to the accumulated wisdom of the ages. Here and there we still see this, as in the long but always pleasing editorials of Henry Watterson and men of his age and erudition. Perhaps the reason may be found in the fact that money or friendship has placed men in the editorial chair who are not Wattersons, Danas or Greeleys. But the new class of editorial writers may have a defence also. They may be like the gentleman who fell into polite society once, and hearing some one quote from Byron, whispered to his neighbor: "Why do men want to be pedants?" They may think the man whose enriched mind now and then displays some of its lore is merely trying to "show off." It is a matter for pity that the public, while growing more familiar even with the football and pugilistic terms of the day, cannot spare the time to become acquainted with what is known as "book-learning."

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If any one fact is made apparent, says Christian Work, in the religious world at the present time, it is the marked change that is going on in the attitude of the non-Christian faiths toward Christianity. These are discovering that no man nor any religion liveth to itself; and so they are striving to postpone the inevitable by stealing the weapons of Christianity, and trying to cover their nakedness with garments borrowed from the better faiths. Professor Mukerji wrote recently in the Indian Evangelical Review of this great change in the religious attitude of the Hindus of Bengal, taking Hinduism as an illustration. And the most hopeful element to Christians in the prevailing religious movement of Bengal, according to Professor Mukerji, is "the overt or covert recognition of Christianity as the purest and best of all religions. Raja Ram Mohan Roy would fain draw all the lessons of Christianity from the Vedas. Babu Bankim Chunder Chatterji would trace every lineament of the Son of Man in his sublimated and reformed Krishna. Swami Vivekananda, the most prominent religious reformer in Bengal at the present time, together with the Bengali Theosophists, would out-Christian Christianity, though professing to be guided only by the dictates of the Vedanta and the Hindu Scriptures. A good deal of this imitative method was seen in connection with the famine operations in Bengal. According to Professor Mukerji, the imitation of Christian methods by the Mohammedans was very close. They did excellent work during the famine, and they have been since trying to establish an orphanage. They would make no difference between Hindu and Mohammedan children. They wanted very much to get up a Hindu nunnery and admit orphan girls into it; but in this manner their only hope lay in converting a number of Christian ladies to Hinduism, and getting them to conduct an orphanage for girls, which proved to be the crux of the whole matter, for Christian converts to Hinduism are not to be had. However, the evolutionary process is beginning to work; the leaven is in the lump, and fermentation follows. That this will lead to something better and higher will prove as true of Bengal as of other countries where Christianity has won its way in the past.