

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

Of the fifty-nine Presbyterian congregations in London, England, three-fourths are carrying on mission work in the churches themselves, and in forty two halls and rooms, employing thirty one salaried and nearly a thousand voluntary workers.

We are influenced largely by exteriors. We take our bearings from surfaces. We have poor eyes for the heart of things and our conclusions are superficial. Our dearest friends are misunderstood and our own hearts ache. As we have failed to understand, so have we been misunderstood.

The other day a gentleman entered a hotel in Glasgow, and, finding that the person who appeared to act as waiter could not give him certain information which he wanted, put the question—"Do you belong to the establishment?" to which James replied, "No, sir; I belong to the Free Kirk?"

It is difficult to imagine any surer way of inducing premature mental decay than for a man of active habits to retire and do nothing when just past the zenith of life, and on the other hand, there is no surer way of enjoying a green old age than to keep on working at something until the close.

Among the latest aspirants for flying machine honors is Father Felix M. Lepore, of the Mount Carmel Italian Church, near Denver, Col. He has, he says, sufficient money to build a ship after his design which has been supplied by capitalists whom he has interested. His airship is bullet proof, he claims.

One should read the whole Bible through frequently in the course of his lifetime. Many men make it a point to read it through every year. And yet, after all, there are certain passages that are especially like green pastures and still waters, and within those refreshing retreats we love to be led under the comforting guidance of the Good Shepherd.

A minister never makes anything, in the long run, if he presumes on his position to brow-beat, or to rasp, or to antagonize unnecessarily. Let the truth be spoken positively and firmly, but in such a way as will be recognized as fair, conciliatory, manly and kind. Then people will be willing to come and hear again.

Mr. Mackenzie, of Hakkaland, heard from a Hakka licentiate, who is now under call to the Singapore Chinese Church, an interesting application of a New Testament counsel of perfection—St. Paul's Christian ideal, "full grown" manhood. After speaking of what that means for an individual Christian, he went on to say what, in his judgment, it demands of a church. No Church, he said, was progressing towards manhood which was not steadily aiming at self-support. He would refuse to call them "men," he told his Chinese Christian

hearers, until they were maintaining their own pastor and their own Christian school without foreign support.

Arrangements are being made for the formal installation of the Rev. Principal Gordon in October of this year. These will include a religious service conducted by representative clergymen, a special convocation for the conferring of degrees and probably a banquet. The students will have their share of the celebration in the form of a public meeting addressed by public men of their own choice, a football match and concert.

The city of Jerusalem is to be portrayed at the World's Fair in St. Louis at a cost of more than one million of dollars. Ten acres of land are to be taken at the Fair grounds around which a wall is to be erected. Inside of this there will be native-born residents of Jerusalem, who will give representations of weddings, feast-days, funerals and the religious life of the people of the Holy city. Wealthy Christian men, who are engaged in Church work, are to furnish the means for this undertaking.

The Rev. Norman MacLeod, presently assistant at Canonbie, Dumfriesshire, son of Rev. Donald MacLeod, D.D., late of St. Columba's Church, London, has, by vote of the congregation, been unanimously elected minister of St. Gerardine's Church, Lossiemouth. Application has been made to the Presbytery of Elgin for the constitution for the church, which was recently erected at a cost of over £4,000.

The Rev. J. F. Dickie, D.D., pastor of the American church in Berlin, Germany, is again in the States in the interests of the church, which is now nearing completion. On this occasion he bears a letter from the American Ambassador, Mr. Andrew D. White, which concludes as follows:—"Dr. Dickie's success thus far has been most gratifying, and he ought to be largely and generously assisted to place the American church and the building connected with it on a footing worthy of the country.

The deepest lake in the British Islands has been discovered, thanks to Sir John Murray, whose survey of the fresh water Scottish lochs is now being prepared at Edinburgh. The honor belongs to Loch Morer, in Inverness shire, with a depth of 1009 feet—several hundred feet more than any previously recorded depth. The survey shows some surprising results. Eighteen lochs gave soundings of 200 feet, nine 300, five gave 400 and two over 500.

It is not generally known that Emeritus Professor Masson, who is now in his eighty-first year began his career as a theological student. He entered the New College, Edinburgh, and was a student under Dr. Thomas Chalmers, who a year or two before had taken the most prominent part in founding the Free Church of Scotland. Professor Masson retains to this day an affectionate regard for Dr. Chalmers, and couples him

with Thomas Carlyle as one of the two greatest Scotsmen of the nineteenth century. It was journalism that wooed the young Masson from the Church, and from journalism he glided into pure literature. As Professor of English Literature in Edinburgh for a generation he exercised a great influence, having had amongst his pupils R. L. Stevenson, J. M. Barrie, S. R. Crockett, "Ian Maclaren," and other now well known literary men.

Steps are being taken in Germany by several physicians and associations interested in the treatment of consumption to test the value of sea air, on patients afflicted with this disease. It is proposed to build a large floating sanatorium with complete equipment for scientifically testing the effects of sea air on consumptives, with roomy open-air wards and medical supervision. It has been decided that the cruising ground for the new ship will be in the neighbourhood of the Canary Islands. The voyage will last about six weeks.

Rev. Dr. Donald Macleod, delivering the second Baird Lecture in Glasgow, protested against the claim of the Roman Catholic Church to unity. There could be no question as to the evil of division. The recklessness with which men had separated from the Churches of their baptism, and had set up rival communities, especially in memory of some bitter controversy on points of Church government or ceremony or doctrine, had been the scandal of Protestantism, just as the unity of Rome, gained by the moral and intellectual suicide of those who laid down at the dictation of the Pope or the Curia the reason and conscience, was the shame of so-called Catholicism. Unity at the expense of personal conviction was a fatal error. It was the unity of a spiritual churchyard where silence reigned, because the individual had ceased to think freely.

Lord Roberts who has risen to the head of the British army, writes strongly of the effects of drink upon the soldiers, and urges entire abstinence. He says that about one-third of the army in India are now total abstainers. The Army Temperance Association is increasing in popularity, and the standard of the soldiers is rising accordingly. He quotes from the court martial returns to show the effect of total abstinence. Of the 2,608 courts martial held in one year, only 73 were for members of the Army Temperance Association. He says: "I was so astonished last year at the comparative absence of crime among the temperance men that I had the figures investigated and found substantially correct." As to health he says: "I find from an average taken over 22 different corps, selected at hazard and representative of all our nationalities, that the admission into the hospital per cent. of the abstainers was 5.5, and among the non-abstainers 10. The corps selected represent all branches of the service." The influence of such a man as Lord Roberts at the head of an army is of unspeakable value to the service.