

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS

## Note and Comment.

The New Hebrides has a population of 56,000, of whom 16,000 are professed Christians. There are on the islands 25 missionaries.

At the annual meeting of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Liberal League, held in Edinburgh on the 21st ult., a motion was adopted condemning the Education Bill.

Dr. Gillespie, of Mouswald, Dumfriesshire, will be the next Moderator of the Church of Scotland, and Dr. Robson, Bridgmont Church, Perth, of the United Free Church.

Great Britain does not spend on missions to the heathen one-fiftieth part of what she spends on strong drink. It would be interesting to ascertain how the matter stands in Canada.

Be not wise above what is written! Popes push their claims to extremes, and so do other men, but the claim is untenable wherever it is urged. God alone is great and God alone is infallible.

A Paris Exhibition for 1911 is already talked about. It is calculated that during 1910, the year of the last exposition, some £6,000,000 more were spent by foreign visitors than in ordinary years.

Dr. E. Pressence, writing of the human and the divine will, says: "My will not thine, be done," turned paradise into a desert. "Thy will, not mine, be done," turned the desert into a paradise and made Gethsemane the gate of heaven."—Christian World.

The Rev. Dr. Parker, who passed quietly away last week, was the most popular preacher in London since the days of Spurgeon, and his place at the City Temple will not easily be filled. England is poorer by his death, and, although he was a pillar of Nonconformity, he will be mourned by the nation at large.

When Mrs. Eddy finds that her religious instructions as to the treatment of disease were bringing her disciples into trouble before the courts, she advises them to "refuse to doctor infectious or contagious diseases." When the disciples of Christ found themselves in the same position, they endured the persecution and ceased not to preach. Let the contrast be noted.

At a meeting held in Edinburgh on the 19th ult., Principal Rainy was the chief speaker. He moved a resolution protesting against the Bill and urging its withdrawal, and said he was for the Bible and the school, but the Bill was a wanton and wicked affront to the principles which ought to commend themselves to the people of the twentieth century. He would be slow to meddle with any Bill affecting England provided the English people were agreed, but he thought they in Scotland ought to concern themselves when their neighbour's house was on fire. Moreover, he thought that in the wake of this Bill there would be an effort to introduce denominationalism to Scottish education.

A fine edition of the "Thibetan Gospels" has been issued from printing works of Ghoom, near Darjeeling, in the Himalayan Mountains, under the auspices of the Moravian church. Altogether Thibet is still a land jealously guarded against foreign influence. These gospels are sold on the frontiers to Thibetan traders, and thus the seed of eternal life is sown broadcast.

The British and Foreign Bible society reports an extraordinary increase in the sales of Malay Scriptures from Singapore. In the past few years the sales have averaged about 3,500 per annum, and in 1899 they were even less. But last year the number of copies sold excelled 11,000, and in consequence several new editions have had to be printed.

It is not simply a question as to what is to become of the heathen world if we withhold the Gospel, says the Herald and Presbyter, but what is to become of ourselves if we are so unkind and unfeeling as to have no regard to the need of those who are perishing. We will move at the impulse of Christ's love. We will try to seek the lost everywhere in remembrance of him and of his directions.

A recent exploration of Baffin's Land has been made under the direction of the Geological Department of Canada. It appears to be the third largest island in the world, being exceeded in extent only by Australia and Greenland. It has an area of 300,000 square miles. It has a wonderful system of inland waters, and has twelve harbours roomy enough for large vessels. It is a possession of immense prospective value.

Archbishop Ireland seems to believe that Canada is sure to become a part of the United States. He talked about it in a recent speech in New York. Like a good many other United States men, who ought to know better, the Archbishop does not know what he is talking about when he talks about Canada. Pope Leo is quite as likely to be president of the United States as Canada is ever to become a part of that country.

We have just read, remarks the Christian Observer of a boy nineteen years old, who wanted to learn a trade, but could find no opportunity. The rules of the trades unions, limiting the number of apprentices, shut him out. Then he stole a set of harness, was caught and convicted. When questioned, he said that he knew that in the penitentiary he would have an opportunity to learn a trade, and he stole the harness, leaving track so that he might be caught and sent to the penitentiary. Without justifying the act, we call attention to a state of affairs which is demoralizing our young men. It ought to be remedied. There ought to be opportunities for them.

Dr. J. J. Ridge, writing in a London paper, sets forth the disastrous effects of drink on social life, and states that careful and experienced investigators have calculated that at least three-fourths of the pauperism is due to it. To what an extent alcohol leads to vice, in the specific sense of the word, is a matter of common knowledge.

As to its effects on the health of the individual drinker, Dr. Ridge says it has been estimated that the deaths caused by drink amount to between 40,000 and 60,000 per annum, while those indirectly due to the same cause amount to as much more. The amount of disease for which drink is responsible is beyond calculation. And yet thousands and thousands among us act in regard to the liquor traffic as if it were perfectly harmless, and a matter of no importance whatever either to the individual or to the commonwealth.

Dr. Underwood, of the Presbyterian mission in Korea, is authority for the statement that the 300 churches of his denomination in that country are self-supporting, with one or two exceptions. They build their own churches and schools, support their own teachers, and pay current expenses.

There is perhaps, no greater international crime, says the Christian Intelligencer, than the arming of savage races with modern firearms. Yet this is what the French are said to be regularly doing. They are all the time shipping guns to the natives of Africa. The Mad Mullah has most of his supplies from them. The *Journal and Messenger* well says that because of this kind of crime Great Britain has practically been obliged to fight all the nations of Europe in any difficulty which has occurred in the last ten years.

Let us come to figures. Twenty-five years ago there was not a single school in Central Africa. To-day there are nearly one hundred and thirty in one mission alone. Twenty-five years ago no one in Central Africa knew a letter of the alphabet. To-day we have more than twenty thousand scholars in our schools. Twenty-five years ago there was no Christian in all the country. To-day three hundred native teachers preach Christ in the villages every Sabbath day. Twenty years ago there was but one inquirer after Christ, and a year later the missionaries met with great joy to baptize him in the name of the Trinity. Last year there were more than three thousand catechumens in the baptism classes, and on a single day at one of the stations, more than three hundred adults were received into the church of Christ.

There is a tremendous effort being made at this time by certain men, says the Herald and Presbyter, to sweep away every distinctive element of the Christian religion while using the very words of Scripture and juggling, in a most unskillful manner, with their meaning. It is not because these men are learned, or scholarly, but because they are rationalistic by temperament and training, and do not feel any interest in the doctrines which involve the reproach of the cross. They would sweep away all that the apostles wrote, as to Christ and his sacrificial death, and would leave us only such things in the gospels as present Christ as an amiable, religious, fervent young man. Such rationalistic methods have characterized the opposition of Christ for nineteen hundred years. In spite of them those who draw their faith from the Word of God will continue to believe in Christ as the Son of God who died to take away the sin of the world.