

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment

It is the test of fine character, as of fine singing that the person displaying it makes it seem not a difficult thing well done, but the simplest thing in the world to do.

There is a proposal to provide some local memorial of Mr. Ruskin to commemorate his associations with Herne-hill and Denmark hill. It is also suggested that a tablet should be placed in Westminster Abbey.

To the man who trusts in God as his Father, fully and unreservedly, days of sorrow are but days of soul illumination; tears are but lenses to make God seem near and to reveal to human eyes the divine tenderness.

Grant Allen, though himself a successful writer, used to advise against letters as a career. "Don't take to literature," said he once, "if you've capital enough in hand to buy a good broom and energy enough to annex a vacant street-crossing."

The Pope of Rome is now ninety-one years old, having celebrated his ninety-first day in the 2nd inst. A report from Rome says he still has a remarkable degree of vitality. His physician is credited with the statement that he may live to be a hundred.

There is little religious freedom in Russia. An attack is being made upon the Lutheran churches in Finland and the Baltic provinces, and the Lutheran Theological Seminaries which were allowed to be opened a few years ago in St. Petersburg, have been closed.

A "Crown of Wild Olive" has been placed on the grave of Mr. Ruskin. This was due to the thought of Miss Grace Allen, who sent to the Rev. Dr. Robertson, of Venice, and desired him to send her a wreath of real wild olive leaves. This has now been sent to Coniston.

A crowd of Missouri politicians broke the rule recently and went to church. When the contribution box reached them the one on the end threw a silver dollar in it, and, turning to the others, who were digging in their pockets for some change, he said, "Never mind, boys—this is all paid for."

Rev. Dr. Hillis, of Plymouth church, Brooklyn, has spoken in Boston—before the Congregational club last week. He presented the difficulties of the pulpit to-day. He declared that this country has 14,000,000 children coming up as devoid of the teaching of morals, so far as public institutions are concerned, as our herds of cattle or the Hottentots.

The Saturday Evening Post quotes the statement of a prominent and wealthy business man of Chicago, that the key to whatever success he has achieved is a bit of counsel given him long ago by a brother who was a cripple. His advice was: "When you go out into the world, you will meet many sharp, tricky, crooked men, but you will find that they always die poor. If you can firm a character and establish your credit, there can be no question about your ultimate success. Most failures in life are due to deficiency in character and a consequent lack of credit."

The Jesuit papers of Rome assert that the evangelical preaching there will make Rome half-Protestant in ten years. This is probably a Jesuitical cry of alarm in order to arouse the Catholics, the end justifying the means. Still the outlook must be hopeful to cause such a cry of despair from the very wall of the Vatican.

The Presbyterian Journal says: The various denominations of the Protestant Church make it possible for every minister to be in good standing somewhere. If one believes himself persecuted in one city, let him flee to another. Better do this than attempt to remain and convince the town that it hasn't sufficient intelligence to appreciate his position.

The Senatus of Edinburgh University has resolved to confer the honorary degree of LL.D. on Mr. Choate, the United States Ambassador to Great Britain, and also on Sir Richard Webster, the Attorney-General for England. It is also to bestow the same honour on Miss Eleanor A. Ormond, the entomologist; and she will be the first woman to receive that honour from this University.

The Standard Oil Co. have declared a quarterly dividend of 20% on its stock. Eighty per cent, a year is too large a profit to be gathered by a few men at its head. Mr. Rockefeller is supposed to have received \$8,000,000. While Mr. R. has given large sums, it is doubtful whether all his benefactions total up to this figure—or his income for three months, from what is only the chief source of his wealth. Compared with his income his gifts are probably small.

A pastor in an Eastern State in his annual report of his stewardship thus unburdens himself of his experience in making calls: "My experiences in calling would make an interesting journal. Of Jews five times have I received rebukes. In waitings often in uncertainties often, in perils of housemaids, in perils of butlers, in perils of mistresses, in perils of landlords, in perils from those of my own denomination, an perils from Episcopalians and Baptists. Thrice have I been beaten with the rod of censure. A score of times have I been stoned with impious questionings. Is not my claim to apostleship quite clear?"

John Ruskin has left on record a list of chapters of the Bible made out by his mother, the installation of which in his mind, he says, he could count very confidently as the most precious and on the whole the one essential part of his education. These chapters were: Ex. xv and xx<sup>1</sup>; 2 Sam.—i, v, and xvii to the end; 1 Kings viii; Ps xxiii, xxiii, xc, xci, ciii cxii cxix, and cxxxix; Pro. ii, iii, viii, and xii; Isa. lviii; Matt. v, vi, and vii; Acts xxvi; 1 Cor. xiii and xv; James iv; Rev. v and vi. Besides these he makes mention of the 8th chapter of Deuteronomy and the 7th chapter of 1 Kings, the learning of which caused him much pains, but which must have furnished him with some fine ideas on architecture. This last chapter contains what may be called the architect's specification for Solomon's own house, the house built for his wife who was Pharaoh's daughter, and the Lord's house or temple. And by the way, it may be noted that the abstract of the chapter in the King James version is misleading, in so far as it conveys the idea that there was in addition a house of Lebanon. The King's house was built of the forest of Lebanon. The chapter in Deuteronomy is the same which inspired Kipling's beautiful recessional hymn, "Lest We Forget."

The introduction of liquors into our new territories says The Lutheran Observer and the spread of intemperance is a disgrace to the United States of America. Well may the Filipinos in Manila be appalled by the scenes which our "civilization" (?) presents. Shall President McKinley and the War Department of our government permit the rum seller and the saloon to debauch a people who have hitherto been comparatively free from this curse of all curses?

The site for the Gladstone Memorial has now been fixed immediately to the west of St. Clement Danes Church, Strand. The memorial is to be something more than a single figure. On a massive basement of Portland stone there will be a bronze statue of Mr. Gladstone in the robes of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with seated statues or groups, also in bronze, at projecting corners of the base. The total height of the memorial will be about 32 ft.

Professor McGiffert has taken counsel of his friends and concluded to withdraw from the Presbyterian Church. He did with them much the same as we thought he should do with his presbytery—make a full statement of his position and submit to their judgement as to whether he could consistently remain a minister in the Presbyterian Church. The fact that the statement he made was quickly followed by the unanimous advice to withdraw, shows that those who have opposed his being allowed to preach with the consent of the presbytery, had substantial reason for their courses. We regret says the North and West that any occasion should exist for having Dr. McGiffert withdraw from our body, but if he is out of harmony with what we believe to be essential truth, it is the only proper and honorable step.

Much speculation exists as to the likeliest man to be appointed to the Principalship of Aberdeen University. The name of Professor Ramsay has been mentioned. Lord Balfour, of Burleigh, has to do with the appointment. The salary is £800 a year, and a manse. If it passes to the Divinity Faculty, Dr. Cowan will be appointed. But it is possible that an outsider may be brought in. That happened when Principal Campbell was appointed. The latest rumour is somewhat startling, says The Christian Leader. It is to the effect that the honour will go to the minister of the Barony, Dr. J. Marshall Lang. The versatility of the Rev. Doctor is acknowledged, but no one has suspected him of any academic tendencies. Perhaps if the appointment does not go to any of the staff of Professors, Dr. J. Marshall Lang is as good as may be going.

The question has been asked, says the Journal and Messenger: "What is it that they are seeking who are hastening to and fro on our streets, each with his look of earnestness, his concentration of thought and purpose?" And it has been suggested: "Some pleasure; some wealth; some knowledge; some power." And that may be true of "some"; but it should not be overlooked or forgotten that by far the greater number are seeking daily bread, nightly shelter and sufficient clothing. "What shall we eat, what shall we drink, and wherewithal shall we be clothed?" is the unanswered question in the thought of the great multitude. Only a few hope for wealth; a still smaller number hope for luxury; a yet smaller number seek wisdom. The quest is for the "necessaries," not the luxuries of the world.