

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

There are 227 different religious sects in Great Britain and Ireland.

The famous Bayreuth Wagner Musical Festival opened this year July 2.

Lord Strathcona has contributed £250 to the fund for the erection of distinctive memorials in South Africa on the graves of soldiers who fell in the war.

On Monday the British Government voted £25,000 additional towards the expenses of the Coronation, caused by its postponement. This makes a total of £125,000.

The total revenue of the United Kingdom for the past financial year amounted to £149,397,000, of which Scotland contributed 10.87 per cent. The balance available for Imperial expenditure was £101,185,000.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has given Pittsburg, Pa., a polytechnic school to cost \$2,000,000, and promises to make it worth \$5,000,000 if the city provides a site that is large enough for the purpose. The city is now wrangling over the site.

Mr. Seddon, New Zealand's famous Premier, is a Scotchman. He is connected with Annan, Dumfriesshire, on the maternal side, and on visiting that town the other day the Town Council conferred the freedom of the burgh upon him.

Lord Hopetoun addressed a farewell letter to Sir John See, the Premier of New South Wales, thanking the Government and people of New South Wales for the great consideration and kindness shown to him during his residence in Australia.

At London on Friday the Duke of Cambridge unveiled the statue of "Chinese" Gordon seated on a camel. It was designed by Edward Onslow Ford. The statue is erected near St. Martin's Church. Lord Kitchener attended the ceremony.

Christian life is a matter calling for reality and sincerity. If one is a child of God, he will be one at home and abroad, asleep and awake, in life, in death and at the judgment. Knowing the love of God in his heart, he can not but profess the love he feels, and professing it, his life will be in accord with his holy profession.

Sir Sanford Fleming, C.E., says the Scottish American, ranks as one of Canada's "grand old men," although his acquaintance with the Dominion only dates from 1845. He was born at Kirkcaldy, Fifeshire, in 1827, and there learnt the business of surveying and engineering before going to Canada to join the engineering staff of the Northern Railway.

Manchester, England, is the site selected for the next "World's Fair," which will be opened in May, 1903. As planned, the exhibits will consist of the world's work up to date in the way of machinery, textiles, scientific research, photography, electricity, education, agriculture, aerial navigation, and the fine arts. The exhibition will be international in character.

A familiar figure in the controversial life of Glasgow for the last forty years has passed away in the person of Mr. Matthew Gass, who spent his life in the discussion of those questions that lie on the borderland of social and political philosophy. He wrote pamphlets on such subjects as "Vaticanism in Morals and Theology," which attracted the attention of Mr. Gladstone; "Fallacies of Fawcett," and "Labor Laws of Moses."

The way in which one gets money and spends it is an unerring index to the character. If one is dishonest or oppressive or avaricious or selfish or gluttonous or impure, it will come out in the getting and the using of money. Our chief concern should be to have clean, good, pure hearts, and then we shall be in the world without being worldly, and shall know what it is to possess durable riches even though we are possessed of little that men call wealth.

Jerusalem is to have a water supply distributed in the modern way, through cast-iron pipes. In ancient times the City of David was well supplied with water. The remains of ancient aqueducts are still discoverable, but since the Turks came into possession the city has been dependent upon the storage of rain water in the cisterns hewn in the rock under the streets and dwellings. As may be imagined, it has been none of the best, and owing to recent droughts this supply has given out. Authority has now been given to bring water in iron pipes from Ain Selah, or the "Sealed Fountain," at Solomon's Pools, about nine miles south of the city.

There are two paintings at St. Mary's Seminary, a Catholic institution in Baltimore, which are declared to be works of Rubens. They were willed to the seminary some years ago by S. Teakle Wallis, Baltimore's foremost lawyer, but no reference was then made to the painter. H. Weidenbach, a Canadian artist, who has been doing work in this country, especially in retouching pictures, was engaged by St. Mary's Seminary, to retouch some paintings of celebrated men of the Society of St. Sulpice. It was while engaged in this work that the artist happened to see the picture of St. Peter, and he promptly pronounced it a Rubens. He asked permission to remove the heavy coat of varnish. The picture of St. Paul was given similar treatment, and since then the two paintings have been viewed by connoisseurs, several of whom are reported to have pronounced them to be undoubtedly Rubens, although their authenticity has not yet been definitely settled.

A telescope is now promised which will bring the moon within eight miles of the earth instead of forty miles. It is hoped that the instrument will make it possible to determine whether the moon has an atmosphere and whether life exists there. The plans for the telescope are more complete than any now in existence. They were formulated by Thomas Preston Brooke, of England. He is a musician who has devoted his leisure to astronomy. The lens of the new instrument will cost about \$10,000. Mr. Brooke is making arrangements with a manufacturer to contribute the tubing. Astronomers are looking forward with interest to the completion of the telescope.

"Only during very recent years," says Prof. W. L. Moore, of the United States Weather Bureau, in the Marine Review, "have we begun to realize how extremely thin is the stratum of air next to the earth that has sufficient heat and moisture for the inception, growth and maturity of animal and vegetable life. The raising of the instrument shelter of the New York City observatory from an elevation of one hundred and fifty feet above the street to an elevation of three hundred feet has caused an apparent lowering of the mean annual temperature of 2½ degrees. On the hottest days in summer, if one could be lifted up to a height of one thousand feet in free air, he would find a temperature so cool as to be pleasant and conducive to bodily vigor."

Drunkenness, says the Herald and Presbyterian, is, of course, a disease, but it is a disease which the individual brings on himself by his own persistent course of vicious self-indulgence and sin. Every one who contributes to the inception or development of the disease is culpable and should be held accountable; but their guilt does not exonerate the one who is the chief criminal. It is the worst sort of namby-pamby sentimentalism to speak of the drunkard as though he were sinned against in his innocence and helplessness. At the same time, the saloon-keeper is a criminal against nearly every law of both God and man, and should be repressed as other dangerous characters are. The man who goes into the saloon does so voluntarily, however, and is his own worst and most effective enemy.

Pope Leo has issued still another encyclical, and, of course, it is called "a masterpiece of its kind." The subject considered is "The Blessed Eucharist," and the object of the Pope is to conform and more fully establish his people in the idea that this "mystery" is ordained of God, and is to be sacredly maintained. No doubt it is a thing which needs all the ingenuity and personal influence possible for its maintenance. It may be regarded as "the highest achievement of faith" (?) to convince a man that the little paste wafer laid on his tongue is the veritable body and blood of the Lord Jesus, his whole personality, as truly as it was he who hung upon the cross and rose from the tomb. And yet, by beginning very early with the child, Romanists succeed in perpetuating the delusion and profiting by its product.