

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

The Duke of Argyle is to publish speedily a life of Queen Victoria. It will be a work of great value.

Almost a century ago on February 18, 1801, it was publicly announced that the sleeplessness of George III was occasioning extreme anxiety to the Royal Family.

The real estate held by the Religious Orders in France is estimated by the government at about \$220,000,000. The orders will defend their property with much skill and spirit.

The Queen's will, it is said, was drawn up more than 27 years ago. The Probate Court has no power over the will of the Sovereign, so that the public has no means of ascertaining its contents.

There are 531 periodicals published in Mexico. Forty-eight are daily newspapers, 224 are weeklies, and 92 published monthly. Seven are printed in English, two in French, and one in German.

By the death of Mr. Osler the Canadian bar loses one of its leading lights. Mr. Goldwin Smith once spoke of one or two of his addresses in court as worthy of a place among the classics.

Dr. Norman McLeod opened a new church at Kilbarchan on Sunday. The building cost £6,000 and seats 1,724. It adjoins the old church, the greater part of which was erected in 1724.

Mr. Zangwill's novel "The Mantle of Elijah" has fallen upon a strange ordeal in Germany. The leading theological journal of that country has just included the volume in its list of foreign theological works.

Ontario finances are in great shape. The receipts last year were \$4,200,000, and the expenditures \$4,000,000, leaving a balance on the year's business of \$200,000. The Government's balance in the bank on Dec. 31st, 1899, was \$836,000; it is now past the million mark.

People of all ranks have been greatly touched and gratified by the promptitude with which the German Emperor has identified himself with the Royal circle at Osborne. His Majesty entertained a profound respect for the Queen, of whom he is said to have spoken of as "the first statesman of Europe."

The total membership of the evangelical churches in the United States is reported as not far from 19,000,000 or about one-fourth of the population. The Standard remarks that even if we discount this 50 per cent for padded statistics, inactive members, etc., the remaining Christian force should be capable of accomplishing great things for God and righteousness.

The foreign diplomats at Washington, always jealous of Britain, growl at the mark of respect which was shown to Queen Victoria when the flag at the White House was lowered to half mast on Jan. 22nd. President McKinley's gentle answer should turn away wrath. He told the offended diplomats that the act of courtesy was not due to the fact that the Queen of England was dead but was a recognition of the worth of Victoria as a woman and of the kindness she always showed to the United States.

A list has been published of the Moderators of the church since 1562, when one "John Knox, Edinburgh," presided over the Assembly. Thirteen ex-Moderators are now living, viz.—Drs. Chrystal, Gray, Gloag, Macgregor, Charteris, Marshall Lang, Storey, Donald Macleod, Scott, Mair, Leishman, and Pagan.

Mr. W. T. Stead has been quoting alleged statements for South Africa on the authority of a "British officer." It turns out that the alleged British officer is simply an "officer" of the "Salvation Army." It is not creditable to Mr. Stead that he should be party to such a fraud. Probably he is a victim of some slim Boer or Boer agent.

In the British House of Commons there are 40 total abstainers. Of these 26 are Liberals, 7 Conservatives, 4 Unionists, 2 Labor and 1 Nationalist. The great preponderance of Liberals is doubtless due to the fact that they contain the bulk of the Nonconformists. In proportion to population nonconformist Wales leads.

A London cablegram says: "There have been more magnificent pageants than the escorting of the body of Queen Victoria from the house where she died to the royal yacht, but never has there been witnessed in recent world history a procession more remarkable in its combination of pomp and splendor with grief and humility."

An English tourist attempted to climb one of the most dangerous peaks of Snowdon, and was lost sight of by a companion. A search party scoured the mountain during the night without success. Next morning the missing gentleman was discovered lying in the snow, benumbed and almost unconscious, on the very edge of an abyss.

In a Presbyterian church in London, the minister, without knowing gave out the Queen's favorite hymn, "Lo, He comes in clouds descending." A member of the Court was in the congregation. "Ah," he said, "how often have I heard the Queen singing that hymn, with strong, clear voice. It was her favorite, and it was never sung with more warmth than by her."

A volume of sermons is to be issued by the National Free Church Council. It will consist of evangelistic addresses delivered by ministers and evangelists of the Free Churches, such as Dr. Monro Gibson, Dr. Horton, the Rev. G. Campbell Morgan, the Rev. F. B. Meyer, Dr. Clifford, the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, Gipsy Smith, the Rev. J. Tolefree Parr, Dr. Townsend and others.

The ministerial jubilee of Dr. Walter C. Smith, creates an interest much wider than his own congregation. The Edinburgh Presbytery have fittingly conveyed an expression of the affectionate regard with which Dr. Smith is regarded within and without his own Church. As a poet, as a preacher, but above all as a large-hearted, broad-minded man, Dr. Smith, has won for himself a warm place in the hearts of his countrymen.

The longevity of parish ministers is brought out by the list of men who are returned as having been ordained ministers of the Church of Scotland for fifty years and upwards. There are twenty-four. Dr. Crystal, of Auchmleck, is the eldest his ordination having taken place in 1833. Rev. John Duncan, of Abdie, and Rev. Chaplain Palm,

of Parkhurst, were ordained in 1839; Dr. Jamieson, Old Machar, Dr. Muckintosh, Dxford, and Rev. Robert Boss, Cruden, in 1843; Dr. Fraser, Colvend, in 1844; five parish ministers reached their jubilee last year.

Two hundred and fifty Chicago saloon-keepers were arrested Monday charged with keeping their places open on Sunday. It is said that action is but the forerunner of the arrest of every saloon-keeper and inn-keeper in Chicago who sells liquor on Sunday.

The Rev. James Macdonald, of Dornoch, a cousin of General Hector Macdonald, is now acting as chaplain to the 3d Seaforth Highlanders. His regiment is stationed at Cairo, and he holds services in the Citadel, attended by some 700 Highlanders. On New Year's Day he held a service in Gaelic, probably the first ever known in Cairo. It was strange, indeed, to hear Gaelic singing in the Egyptian capital.

In Proclaiming, at Pretoria, the accession of King Edward, the wording of the proclamation, describing the new King as "Supreme Lord of and over the Transvaal," is regarded as designed to promote conciliation. While it asserts the supremacy of the British sovereign, yet it recognizes the Transvaal as an entity, keeps it separate from the constitutional empire and places its ancient laws, customs, etc., under the supreme separate rule and protection of the King.

The famine in Shan Si has become so dire that the court has ordered rice distributed in large quantities. A report having reached the foreign envoys that the native Christians were to be discriminated against in its distribution, the Ministers of the United States, Great Britain and France protested to Prince Ching and Li Hung Chang. As a result, an order has been issued, directing the relief officials and Chinese soldiers to treat the native Christians exactly as they do the other Chinese, under penalty of decapitation.

The Queen of Holland and Prince Heinrich have bound themselves by the marriage contract, in accordance with the statutes, to recognize the husband as the head of the matrimonial union, and to provide for and educate the children of the union. The husband assumes the responsibility of representing the wife in all civil actions. The wife promises to obey the husband, but by a special recent act of the Dutch Parliament, she is exempted from the usual promise, "To dwell with him wherever he deems it best to live."

Rev. Dr. Alex. Stewart, well known in Scotland by his pen name of "Nether Lochaber," died on the 17th inst., aged 72 years. Dr. Stewart, who was descended from the historic house of Appin and Ardsheal, was born in Uist and spent his early days in Fort-William and Lorn. In 1851 he was appointed to the charge, which he filled until his death. He was known throughout the United Kingdom as an authority on all matters connected with Highland history and folk-lore. If he had been spared, Dr. Stewart would have celebrated his jubilee as a minister in the course of a few months, an event, which, it is understood, he was looking forward to with much interest.