

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents

## NOTE AND COMMENT

The United Presbyterian says: "There is manifestly a rapid increase in drunkenness among women in the United States. It is accompanied in many circles with cigarette smoking. It is asserted that these vices are specially common among the wealthy and well-to-do classes of society."

A bill has been introduced into the Illinois House of Representatives intended to promote Bible reading in the public schools. It provides that portions of the Bible shall be read without sectarian note or comment. There are nine States which now have similar laws.

"I was with the relief column that moved on to Ladysmith," said Sir Frederick Treves. "It was an extremely trying time from the heat of the weather. In that column of some thirty thousand men the first who dropped out were not the tall men, or the short men, or the big men, or the little men—but the drinkers."

The United States census bureau has been investigating marriage and divorce in the various States, and preliminary estimates indicate a total of 1,400,000 divorce applications during the twenty years ending with last year. The total for the preceding twenty years was only 328,000, an increase from 33 to about 70 per 100,000.

When Faraday, the great scientist, was dying, some one asked him what he thought would be his occupation in heaven, and he replied, "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive the things that God hath prepared for them that love him. But I will see Jesus and be with him, that will be enough."

Reform in China has proved itself genuine, according to Dr. Arthur H. Smith, as quoted in the Chicago "Interior," by its new attitude toward women. He reports that both the government and private Chinese citizens are beginning to organize schools for the education of girls. A sanguine man might have dreamed a great many other hopeful things about China, but anybody less than an inspired prophet could hardly have imagined a time when any Chinaman outside the Christian church would think his daughters worth educating—let alone anybody else's daughters. But that marvel has come to pass with many of China's representative citizens.

The Christian Advocate of New York City gives this information: During the last year in Spain there were 585 bull fights, thirty-five more than in the preceding year. There were forty-four espadas who took part, one of whom was a woman; and 894 other toreros, whose salaries amounted to \$600,000. The gains were \$700,000. There were numerous accidents and one fatal result. These feasts of blood involved the killing of 2,879 bulls, and the value of the horses killed was \$177,000. At these bull fights, which take place on Sabbath, beginning on Easter Sabbath immediately after the solemn services in the cathedrals, they have a Catholic priest there ready to confess and otherwise prepare for judgment anyone who may be gored to the verge of death.

The Anglo-Chinese college at Shanghai, China, has opened well, 175 pupils being admitted and nearly an equal number were turned away. Rev. J. W. Cline, the president, writes: "It is hard to say how many pupils we might have had if we only had sufficient room and teaching force. We had 240 pupils in Sunday school yesterday, and the college chapel was full for preaching."

A strange accompaniment to a funeral ceremony was witnessed in Chicago. The body that was being committed to the grave was that of a famous singer whose rendering of sacred songs had charmed many church audiences. Her death had been sudden. Not many days before it occurred she had been one of a party of friends assembled around a phonograph. She had been persuaded to sing into the recording. During the service at her funeral the instrument was placed beside her casket, and in the silence that ensued there floated out the strains she had sung: "Nearer my God to Thee." The effect was thrilling and somewhat weird.

The old church at New London, P.E. I., in which the late Rev. John Geddie ministered before going out as a missionary to Aneityum, in the New Hebrides, is still standing and occupied as a place of worship. The outside of the church looks just as it did when first erected, some seventy years ago, though the interior has been remodelled and improved. It is now known as the Geddie Memorial church. Dr. Geddie was Canada's first Presbyterian missionary to heathendom. He left his native land for the South Seas in 1846, in the month of November—from Pictou to Halifax, thence by sailing vessel to Boston, where he secured passage on a vessel which sailed around Cape to the Sandwich Islands, that portion of the voyage occupying 170 days, the distance sailed being 1,900 miles. From Honolulu he went to Samoa, and thence to Aneityum where he was settled in July, 1848. It will thus be seen that the voyage from Pictou, N.S., to Aneityum, occupied one year and seven months—a notable missionary voyage. The Geddie Memorial church is a fitting monument to the memory of the "Apostle of the New Hebrides."

China and other Eastern nations are thoroughly aroused on the opium question. Strenuous efforts are being put forth to diminish the evils of the ruinous drug, and, so far as possible, to stop the use of it altogether. The Chicago Interior has the following: "Reports from the Far East detail a remarkable movement against the use of opium, having its practical basis in the discovery of a plant which appears to be a cure for the habit. A well-to-do Chinaman in the province of Selangor received the plant from China, and on investigation it was found to grow freely in Selangor in a wild state. An anti-opium society was formed in Kuala Lumpur, the capital, and the dispensaries are hard pushed to keep up their supply of the specific, which is distributed free. It is declared that in this district alone over 14,000 persons have been cured, and the sales of opium have fallen off two-thirds. The movement is watched with mixed feelings by the government, which has a profitable monopoly upon the drug, privileges being leased to farmers for periods of three years. If the cure is really permanent, the discovery ought to be a great aid in making effective the anti-opium measures in China."

The good wife of the average pastor is thus happily depicted in the Cumberland Presbyterian: "The preacher's wife is mostly human, only partially divine. She lives on earth and is terrestrial. She may approach the angelic, but never arrives at that point while mistress of a parsonage and parson. She is not an ethereal substance, free from earthly care and worry and temptation. Her duties are not unlike those of many who sit with her in the pews to hear her husband preach. Her children cry just as much as those in other homes, her floors need the same amount of sweeping, and her purse gets empty equally soon. She is needed to dispel the blues of her husband about as often as are the wives of laymen."

A Texas medical man, in a letter published in the Scientific American, condemns the use of sweet milk for persons suffering from stomach troubles, and gives this instance in support of his view: "A patient was sick for years with what is known as dyspepsia and prolapus in its worst form. Former physicians gave her largely a diet of sweet milk, but she received no benefit for either complaint. On beginning my treatment, I had her abstain entirely from sweet milk, not even taking cream in coffee, and in a fortnight she had recovered from nearly all ill effects of indigestion, and possessed the ability to digest three hearty meals per day, and was soon entirely well of both complaints." He adds: "Just why sweet milk has this effect in stomach trouble I cannot say, but would like to find out."

The real growth of temperance sentiment is nowhere more manifest than in the changed attitude in Germany toward alcoholic drinks. Some of the railroads are supplying hot coffee and non-alcoholic drinks for the employees, either serving them free, or at a nominal cost. The American Consul at Kehl, writing in a Consular Report of the results of these efforts, says: "The consumption of alcoholic drinks has materially decreased and the efficiency of the workmen increased. The employees have performed their duties more cheerfully, and have been more faithful. This has been especially noticeable among the workmen in the freight departments. Their powers of endurance notably increased. There were also fewer accidents to the employees, as they had better command of their faculties."

The increase in number of suicides in European countries is attracting much attention. Governmental reports are credited with showing that from 1840 to 1900 the increase in suicide amounted to 400 per cent., while the population has increased only 60 per cent. In England suicides have increased by 200 per cent. in fifty years and by 150 per cent. in twenty-five years. In twenty years there have been more than 50,000 in England and Wales. There have been in the fifty years 16,640 suicides in little Switzerland, 323,600 in Germany, and 274,000 in France. The aggregate of suicides in Europe in the past twenty-five years is said to reach the appalling total of 1,000,000. In America the number is about 3,000 annually, and is increasing. The Salvation Army is announcing its purpose to make a specialty of rescuing persons from committing the crime.