

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

In the Dakota Presbytery, composed entirely of Indians, there are twenty-seven churches and 1,458 communicants, ministered to by fifteen Indian preachers.

While sojourning at Balmoral, King Edward follows the example set by his illustrious and revered mother, in attending the services of the Church of Scotland.

A second Presbyterian congregation has been organised at Glace Bay, C.B. There is room for both for "Canada's growing time" is at work in the far East.

Principal Caven, of Toronto, the Belfast Witness says, will preside over the meetings of the Pan-Presbyterian Alliance, to be held in Liverpool next year. The inaugural sermon will be preached by Dr. John Watson.

A movement has been set on foot to erect in the capital of the Transvaal a Presbyterian church, to be a memorial to all the soldiers (officers and men, volunteers, doctors, and nurses) of that denomination who fell during the war.

The Presbyterian Witness publishes the names of more than twenty Presbyterian ministers from the Maritime provinces who are "holding the fort" in various parts of Canada's great western heritage from Port Arthur up to the distant Yukon.

The chief of the Halifax fire department is (or was) proprietor of a licensed saloon. Recently the city council voted that he be allowed ten days to give up the saloon or his position as fire chief. That is quite a step in advance for the Halifax city council and is a good sign.

The Second Presbyterian Church, Chicago, has invited Rev. Clarence McKinnon, of North Sydney, C.B., to be their pastor. The salary is said to be \$8,000 a year. Presbyterians of the Maritime provinces will be loth to part with Mr. McKinnon.

Rev. Dr. George J. Bond, who came from Halifax to edit the Christian Guardian in Toronto has resigned that position and has gone to Newfoundland with his brother, Sir Robert Bond. Dr. Bond has been in ill health since the death of his wife a short time ago. He is an experienced journalist as well as an able preacher.

The cordial detestation by Roman Catholics of Cardinal Vaughan continues to find frequent expression. While the man was alive these voices were silent. Now that he is dead the condemnation is universal. In support of these assertions the Belfast Witness quotes the following attack upon his memory of a Roman Catholic writer: "Tact, sound judgment, and a conciliatory spirit are, indeed, of more value than scholarship, and these were all absent in the new Archbishop's predecessor, who was also no scholar." Moreover—"A learned laity, a sense of the possible as well as of the actual, and a good dose of that fraternal charity which is not held to be the foremost charac-

teristic of the Roman Church in that country, would help the bishops as much as it would dignify Roman Catholicism. A bishop with the qualities above named, backed and informed by such a laity as this, would be guiltless of such manifestoes as those on the death of Queen Victoria and on 'liberalism,' or as the swift condemnation of Mivert." It seems safe, then, to judge that Romanists in England are not in a particularly united condition, even by the admissions of Romanists themselves.

At its recent session the Nova Scotia Free Baptist conference passed a resolution endorsing all efforts to stop Sabbath breaking or desecration of the Lord's day, such as making it a day of pleasure and of visiting, forgetting that God has said, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." The Christian churches should keep this duty prominently before their people.

Rev. Dr. Black, of St. Andrew's church, Halifax, has demitted his charge and is going to London, England. Dr. Black is a clever preacher and a scholarly man. His book on "The Christian Consciousness," published some ten years ago, is evidence of his ability as an author. There is a rumor that St. Andrews and Fort Massey may be united into one congregation. Both churches are at the South End, about three hundred yards apart, a relic of the days before the Union of 1875. United they would form a large and strong congregation.

Rev. Robert Magill of Maghera, Ireland, who was recently nominated by the Board of the Presbyterian Theological College, Halifax, to the vacancy caused by the removal of Dr. Gordon to Kingston, has intimated his acceptance of the nomination. The appointment, no doubt, will be made by the Synod of the Maritime provinces now in session at Charlottetown, and it is expected that Mr. Magill will be ready to enter upon his duties at the opening of the forthcoming session of the college.

The Board of the Presbyterian College, Halifax, has unanimously nominated Rev. Robert Magill, M.A., Ph.D., of Maghera, Co. Derry, Ireland, to the chair of Apologetics and Systematic Theology, vacant by the appointment of Rev. Dr. Gordon to the principalship of Queen's University, Kingston, Ont. It will be remembered that some time last year Rev. James Croskery, also an Ulster man, was called to fill the vacancy, but his sudden and untimely death intervened. Mr. Magill is spoken of in the highest terms by Dr. Monro Gibson of London, Prof. Hamill of Belfast, Prof. Dickey of Magee College, Derry, and several others, including Rev. Wm. Patterson of Bethany church, Philadelphia, formerly of Cooke's church, Toronto. The letter says of Prof. Magill: "My mother and brother are connected with Dr. Magill's congregation in Maghera, and as I visit them every summer I have the privilege of meeting and hearing him frequently. He is a splendid preacher, clear, concrete and interesting, but he excels as a teacher. He is very much loved by all the people in his large congregation. It is not necessary for

me to speak of his scholarship, further than to say that he is looked upon as the best scholar in the Irish Presbyterian Church, by all the ministers with whom I am acquainted in the north of Ireland. He is a perfect gentleman in the highest sense of the term and is of a very winning manner. He is a man of fine executive ability, and has done much along this line in connection with the Church and schools, since he came to Maghera. Above all he is a man of splendid Christian character and truly devoted to the cause of his Master."

A converted priest, Mr. Joseph McCabe, so the Presbyterian Standard says, has been telling the truth about Catholicism in Spain, in a way the Catholics do not at all relish. Mr. McCabe spoke of the "bulls," the old indulgence against which Luther protested, which in Spain are signed and sealed documents which any one may purchase for 15 cents, granting a plenary indulgence. Dr. Rivier, a Catholic defender of the faith, writes in the Catholic Union and Times that "the penance for certain venial sins of not too serious a nature, can be commuted to a small fine," and cites the instance of President Roosevelt recently commuting a sentence against a military officer, but the officer did not know that he could purchase immunity in advance.

Scotland's glory as a Sabbath-observing nation seems to be passing away—at least we judge so from the following deliverance in the Belfast Witness: "It is sad to think that at the very time many of the Continental Protestants are working a league for the better observance of the Lord's Day; at the very time that some of the bishops at home, both of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, are lifting up their voices on behalf of the preservation of the Sabbath from the attempts to secularise it by amusements and by works of toil, Scotland should give in its capital the smallest help to the enemies of God and man in their defiant attempt to rob them of their birthright." Does not this serious view apply with great force to Canada?

According to the "Glasgow Herald" a scheme for the erection of works for the utilization of peat at Mid-Locharwoods has been formulated by the Scottish Peat Industries, Ltd. Already there are similar works in operation at Racks, Dumfries, which turn out solid dry blocks as fuel, almost as dense as coal, which ignite easily, and burn slowly with little ash. In Germany the industry has been developed to a considerable extent. There, steel is manufactured by means of peat charcoal, and at least twenty-seven glass factories use peat fuel. In Bavaria, peat is largely used in locomotives, and in Russia, Sweden and Holland it is similarly applied, and also for moss litter. The Belfast Witness thinks it would be "good news for Ireland, and the Highland laird and the Highland cotter alike, if our thousands of acres of peat land could be so utilised as to supply fuel to our towns and villages." These facts should be of some interest to those who are endeavoring to develop a peat industry in Canada.