

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents.

## NOTE AND COMMENT.

The National Bible Society of Scotland reports a circulation of over one million and a half copies of the Scriptures. Of every ten copies issued, nine go to non-Christian and Catholic countries.

It is reported that French bankers have refused to aid in floating another large Russian loan unless a parliament shall be elected by the people which shall exercise an effective control of the nation's finances.

A memorial to the late Principal Salmon, Aberdeen, in the shape of a beautiful stained glass window, was unveiled on the 3rd inst. in Barry United Free Church, where he was minister for eleven years, by Dr. Whyte, St. George's Edinburgh.

The Simplon Tunnel, the greatest in the world, was formally declared completed last Sunday. The tunnel, which is twelve miles long, has taken seven years to build, and cost \$15,000,000. It shortens the route between Italy and Switzerland 41 miles.

The demand for the suppression of needless noise in cities is steadily increasing, and the time may come when it will be effective. The needless noise not only causes great discomfort, but probably increases the death rate. Steam whistles are the greatest offenders.

The continued agitation of the Congo outrages has brought to light a depth of degeneracy that is hardly conceivable, including exposure of a bogus "missionary society," whose business has been to minimize the horrors of the situation, and to manufacture evidence favorable to the administration and conditions of the Congo. It is infamy on top of infamy.

Dr. John Seath, Senior Inspector of Ontario High Schools, has received the appointment of superintendent of education from the Provincial Government and will enter on his duties immediately. Mr. Jas. E. Wetherell, principal of Strathroy Collegiate Institute, has been promoted to the senior inspectorship made vacant by Dr. Seath's appointment.

The judicial oath in the Isle of Man is so quaint as to deserve printing. It runs thus: "By this book and the holy contents thereof, and by the wonderful works that God hath miraculously wrought in heaven above and in the earth beneath in six days and seven nights, I do swear that I will, without respect or favor or friendship, love or gain, consanguinity or affinity, envy or malice, execute the laws of this Isle justly between our sovereign lord the King and his subjects within this Isle, betwixt party and party, as indifferently as the herring's backbone doth lie in the midst of the fish."

Bishop Scott, writing on his first impressions in Africa, says that the native laborer is always ready to accept work and, as a rule, will perform it as well as he knows, but he has to be taught everything. The natives harvest rice, for instance, by cutting off one head at a time. They do things now just as their fathers did in the years gone by, while the world marches on and leaves them behind. Bishop Scott considers their needs are threefold: literary, religious, and industrial. He speaks of the great influence Christianity has on the native, and says he expects to live to see thousands turn to God in Africa.

It is reported from China that most of the Catholic missionaries who have trouble with the Chinese do not belong to the Order of Jesuits, but to Lazarists, who are inferior to the Jesuits in culture and general knowledge. The Lazarists are said to be rather ignorant, and their interference with China's governing powers is greater than that of the Jesuits. It is claimed that the Catholics killed at Nanchang were Lazarists.

The Right Rev. Edward Henry Bickensteth, D.D., late Bishop of Exeter, and known the world over by his long poem, "Yesterday, Today, and For Ever," died last week in London, aged eighty-one. Dr. Bickensteth was the author of numerous religious and poetical works, some of which achieved great popularity, the book mentioned above having passed through twenty-five editions. His writings were of a devotional and deeply spiritual type.

Lord Cromer's annual report on the condition of affairs in Egypt is exceedingly bright and hopeful. The whole machinery of government is working very smoothly, he says, and improvements have been effected in many directions. The history of Britain in Egypt is one of which all Britishers may justly be proud, and no small amount of the success that has been achieved there has been due to the wisdom and broad statesmanship of Lord Cromer.

The invitation to His Majesty King Edward to visit Canada in the near future has received endorsement and emphasis from so many quarters that it almost looks as if our gracious sovereign would find the task of refusal a very difficult one. Should he come—and we would not say that there was not a bare possibility of his so doing—Canadians would not only be delighted beyond measure, but Canada would get the best advertising throughout the world that she has ever yet had.

Germany possesses a miniature but most useful railway, of which the chief peculiarity is that its trains have no drivers. It is used for carrying salt from the salt mines at Stassfurt. The trains consist of thirty trucks, each carrying half a ton of salt. The engines are electric, of twenty-four horse-power each. As the train approaches a station, of which there are five along the line, it automatically rings a bell, and the station attendant turns a switch to receive it. He is able to stop it at any moment. To start it again he stands on the locomotive, switches the current, and then descends before the engine has gained speed.

The annual assembly of the Welsh Presbyterian Mission at an Indian village called Mairang, in the Khasia Hills, in March last was remarkable for the peculiar scenes which attended it. Thousands of natives flocked to the meetings, and an eye-witness states that the hymns were repeated over and over again, so that a short hymn of three stanzas would last more than an hour. The natives accompanied the singing with dancing—or a swaying of the body—and seemed lost in fervid praise. Hundreds of people went into trances, and trembled and shook extremely, their contortions being painful to witness, but they appeared perfectly unconscious of it. Of one young man a correspondent to this country says: "The scene was awful. It was not excitement, but agony, anguish, excruciating spiritual pain." Over five thousand souls have been brought into the church during twelve months, and it is fervently hoped by the missionaries that the demon-worship of the hills will soon be driven from the land.

Russia now has a national Y.M.C.A. alliance, with headquarters in St. Petersburg. It was recently formed at a conference in Livonia and was officially welcomed by the Lord Mayor of the city—a marked change since the last meeting, which was held behind closed doors for fear of Government interference.

The Herald and Presbytery in its notes on the vacant Northern General Assembly at Des Moines, gives the following suggestive paragraph: "China is a country of many provinces and languages. Elder Wong Sam Ying is a Commissioner from Los Angeles. He says: 'I come from a church of sixty Christian Chinese. This is big country. I like it. Lots of travel. Get dirty and tired, but it washes off like our sins. I love to meet all these Christian men. We all brothers in Christ. I sit near negro men. They are nice people. They not so bad to look at. They big men in our Church and are helping too, to bring all men to God. I bring my fan. It makes people smile. It it gets hot like it does in China, they ask me for it, and then I laugh at them.'"

Will the Jews return to Palestine? They are returning. It is estimated that Jewish families are moving into Jerusalem at the rate of one hundred families every week. At this rate Jerusalem will soon be again a Jewish city.

One of the most amusing "tempests in a tea-pot" that has occurred in a long time is the Roman Catholic excitement over the fact that the ceremony of laying the corner-stone of the House office building in Washington, on April 14, was largely a Masonic one, the Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia laying the stone, and the lodges forming the procession, and the President making the address. The "New World," of Chicago, a leading Catholic paper of the middle West, speaks of the incident as an "official insult" to American Catholics, and after a tirade against Masonry and its "diabolical influence," the editorial addresses the President personally, telling him how it had formerly held him up as an "ideal American citizen 'without fear and without reproach,'" and asks, "Shall we in the future have to render homage to a Roosevelt of a former date?" It then goes on to predict what the "Federation of Catholic Societies" will do to resent "the most notorious official insult that has ever been levelled in the United States against their church."

An incident came to our notice last week, says The Christian Guardian, that goes to show that even the Chinaman as we have him in Canada, has his good qualities, among which must be reckoned a deep sense of gratitude and appreciation for any favors done. A young lady of Toronto, a Presbyterian and a teacher of a Chinese class in one of the Sunday schools, was taken ill a few months ago. An operation followed, which did not have the results hoped for, and after some weeks of sickness she ended last week. After the operation the first one to visit the young lady in the hospital was her Chinese scholar, who informed her in his broken English that as now she was unable to do any work she must let him help her, as he had plenty of money. His faithfulness to her during her illness was very touching, and at the funeral service on Thursday evening last this young Chinaman showed all the heart-broken sorrow and grief of one who had lost his dearest and truest friend. After all, is not the Chinaman's heart in just about the same place as the Englishman's, and is not his appreciation of goodness and of usefulness just about as genuine and as lasting as any other man's?