

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

"Satan in solution" is the latest laconic description of alcohol and its varied compounds. The epithet fits.

Holland's young Queen recently sent greetings to the Batak Christians in Sumatra, with the statement that "she was enlisted with them under the same banner of the cross."

The number of converts and Christian Brothers' schools in the Province of Quebec which make no report to the Provincial authorities is said to be large, probably two hundred. There are also many teachers who have no certificates. One of the members of the Legislature has indicated that he will ask the Provincial Government for the facts.

Rev. G. A. Johnstone Ross, of the Presbyterian Church of England, publishes an earnest appeal to his brethren, urging that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper should be observed so as to express the living and loving unity of all Evangelical Christians, all such being welcome to the Lord's Table. In order to this he advocates the abolition of "Communion tokens," whether cards or other. These, he thinks, prove hindrances, and marks and symbols of parochialism and sectarianism. On this latter point the Belfast Witness says: "Whatever purpose may have been served by tokens in the past their usefulness is not apparent now. And the church ought certainly to emphasize the fellowship and Communion, which is one great ideal in the Lord's Supper."

The death, at an advanced age, of the Rev. Dr. James Stewart, of Lovedale, South Africa, removes one who has rendered a unique service to the Dark Continent, and whose name stands familiarly connected with that of David Livingstone. Stewart accompanied Livingstone on many of his journeys, was with him when Mrs. Livingstone died on the way up the Zambesi to Nyassa, and was present at Westminster when the body of the great explorer was laid to rest. It was through Livingstone's influence that Stewart decided to devote his life to Africa; what he has done for that continent may never be estimated. He was for forty years connected with the great native college at Lovedale, and also founded similar institutions at Blythwood and Blantyre. Lord Milner spoke of him as "the biggest human in South Africa." He was strongly in favor of British rule in South Africa, and had a strong aversion of the Boers, whom he regarded as uniformly cruel and unjust to the natives.

One of our highly esteemed ministers, says the Presbyterian Witness, who is completing the fortieth year of his ministry, "nor e'er had changed, nor wished to change his place," in conversation with the writer, made the statement that all the young men in his congregation with the exception of only one or two were members of the church in full communion. On being asked for an explanation of this much to be desired condition for all churches, the answer was given that he had learned from experience that children were generally glad of the opportunity to become members of the church, and he had, therefore given special attention to training the children of his congregation so that they might be fully qualified for church membership at an early age, "and," he added, "the members who have given me least trouble in all my ministry are those whom I received as children." This is a point which should be noted by elders, Sabbath school teachers and church members, as well as by pastors. The young people of the church afford a fine field for personal effort.

Mr. James J. Hill, the great railway man, says that while the United States are apparently prosperous, they are really living profligately, exploiting their natural resources, without building up industries and trade relations to take their place when these are exhausted.

When thinking of past and arranging for future benevolence, this pointer, which we find in an exchange, may be of service. "Don't be stingy because some of your charity went wrong. Think of how much wasted mercy has been poured out on you."

Mr. Carnegie has modified his trust for pensioning college professors, so as to admit the professors of denominational colleges to its benefits. The composition of the board of trustees of the fund, which includes the presidents of a number of "denominational" colleges, seemed to indicate that the term "sectarian" needed further definition, and that he did not mean to exclude all the institutions ordinarily known as "denominational."

W. M. Wolfe, professor of theology in Brigham Young College, a Mormon institution, at Logan, Utah, has caused a stir in Mormon circles, by renouncing his belief in the Mormon faith, refusing to pay tithes, and severing his relations with the college. Prof. Wolfe is the son of a Presbyterian clergyman. After engaging in the newspaper business he went to Utah ten years ago and became a convert to Mormonism.

A missionary in South America gives the unhesitating testimony in regard to the progress of Protestant mission work in that continent. He says: "There can be no question about it that, in spite of unprecedented efforts on the part of the priests to deceive the people as to the real issues at stake, to prejudice them against the Bible gospel, and to fan into flame that fanatical, intolerant spirit of the Inquisition days Rome is losing ground in South America every day, and a great deal of extra noise in the way of special processions, Bible burning or the discovery of new and ever increasingly miraculous Madonnas, cannot disguise the fact to any attentive and unbiased observer."

Under the caption of "The Swing of the Pendulum," the London Presbyterian in diagnosing the conditions which brought about the great Liberal victory in Great Britain, says: "But what the electors see is the result of Free Trade. They see an unrivalled dominion for the country which has adopted it. They see her fleets on every sea and her trade in every port. And they are not prepared to imperil this splendid heritage by a policy of economic adventure. They may be right, or they may be wrong, but at all events they are conservative." It might be a good thing for Canadian electors to inform themselves more thoroughly than they have done on the beneficial results of free trade in the mother country.

The programme of legislation on the matter of education, formulated by the federated Nonconformists of England, consists of the following points—1. Complete popular control for the elected representatives of the people over all schools maintained by the State? 2. The abolition of sectarian tests for all teachers employed in such schools? 3. The omission of sectarian teaching from the public curriculum of State-supported schools? 4. The establishment of a system of secondary education, and of colleges for the training of teachers which shall be unsectarian and under complete popular control? As some 170 Nonconformists have been elected to parliament they will be able to exercise a powerful influence in support of their programme.

Presbyteries in Africa connected with the Established Church of Scotland and the United Free Church recently united, and formed the "Synod of the Church of Central Africa." Thus the good work of evangelization and union goes on.

The Railroad Gazette is authority for the statement that a Swiss life insurance company has agreed to insure members of the Railroad Men's Temperance Society for four per cent. less than the premiums charged to non-members. Just an additional count that temperance is profitable in the life that now is, says the Presbyterian Standard.

One of the most significant comments on the recent Inter-church Federation Conference in New York is that by Father Sheedy, of Baltimore, in the Catholic Mirror. This paper has been regarded as reflecting to a considerable extent the sentiments of Cardinal Gibbons, which gives the article special significance. The conference is spoken of as "the most important and impressive religious gathering ever held among non-Catholics." He expresses the belief that if ever church unity is attained "it will be brought about under some such form as this great conference in New York has assumed." Further words of Father Sheedy are: "The desire for a reunion of Christendom is a striking characteristic of our times. Separated bodies of Christians are being drawn closer together every day. They cease to think ill of each other and are uniting, wherever practicable, in charitable and other good work. This is the first step toward that final and perfect union for which Christ prayed. And should no further advance be made in our time, every one is thankful for this better and more Christian feeling."

Merely formal religion without spiritual vitality nowhere in all Christendom has such undisputed possession as in sunny Spain. Here there is one priest to every 400 people, and if we include the 50,933 monks and nuns, which is a very low estimate, we find that there is one to every 200, while there is only one teacher for every 460 of the population and a schoolhouse for every 2,200. Empty churches are a very bad sign, particularly if they are large and splendid and cost a lot of money to maintain. Throughout Spain there are too many priests and too few worshippers. In Toledo a traveller counted fifty-eight priests and attendants engaged in the service and only four worshippers. At Cordova nineteen priests were present and two old women knelt near by the choir. Is it strange that the common people of Spain, groaning under the burden of taxation which is necessary to support the state religion, are almost in revolution against the church and against the government which supports it?

Lord Selborne, the new British High Commissioner in South Africa, in the course of a recent address at Johannesburg, gave utterance to the following wise and thoughtful sentiment: "I am very glad of this opportunity of expressing my profound conviction that all the riches of this country—the land, the flocks, the herds, the diamonds, and the gold—are talents for the use of which we shall have to account; that the direction to spread the gospel is a direct order which the Christian cannot evade, and that unless we in this country take the Bible as our guide, as expounded by the study and tradition of the Churches throughout all ages, all wisdom will be turned to foolishness." Food for thought in these sentences for the people of Canada. In this "strenuous" age, with its overflowing prosperity and development, people are apt to forget that genuine prosperity is a blessing that comes to us from the hand of the Creator, and that we are the stewards of God's bounty.