

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS

Note and Comment.

Newfoundland has issued a new four cent stamp with the Duchess' portrait on it, to commemorate the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall.

Twenty thousand copies of the Prince of Wales' speech and the other speeches at the Guildhall banquet are to be circulated by the London City Corporation.

Bennett Burleigh, the English war correspondent, says 10,000 British families could be settled to-morrow in charming hill and valley land in Vryheld district in South Africa alone.

The London "Standard" hears an important feature of the coronation ceremonies will be a naval review at Spithead, on an unprecedented large scale, to which foreign war-ships will be invited.

Queen Alexandra possesses a marvellous faculty for dropping off to sleep whenever she feels that she ought to have a little rest. It is to her ability to take a nap at will that Her Majesty attributes her excellent state of health.

Rev. F. R. McDonald, minister of Coupar-Angus, has died, in his 59th year. He was a native of Canada and was ordained minister of Martyr's Church, Paisley, and in 1881 was inducted successor to Dr. Stevenson, Coupar Angus.

Sable Island, that place of shipping disasters, is recommended to Marconi as a good place to locate his wireless telegraph station. It is 80 miles from the Nova Scotia coast, and ought to be a good site, with lighthouse towers 128 feet high.

The Scotchmen on the Isle of Lewis, the largest of the Hebrides, object to the union of the Free and United Churches of Scotland. When the minister at Ness joined the United Church they locked him out, and when the police were sent from the mainland they were imprisoned and capitulation forced.

Out of Montreal's population of 267,730, no less than 202,109 are Roman Catholics; 23,934 belong to the Church of England, 18,919 are Presbyterians, 8,139 Methodists, and 6,748 Jews. There is only one Mormon. In Ottawa there are 31,310 Roman Catholics in a total population of 59,928, and there are 10,017 Church of England, 8,025 Presbyterians and 5,788 Methodists.

The case of Miss Stone has not received much attention from the newspapers during the past week, and very likely this lack of publicity will prove beneficial to her case. It is announced that Mr. Eddy, the American Charge d' Affairs at Constantinople, has a new plan for securing the release of Miss Stone which is now being followed out, but none of the details of the plan can be made public. Mr. Eddy says that the prospects for release are growing brighter.

The young Queen of Holland, like the late Queen Victoria, absolutely refuses to sign any paper which she does not understand. If she cannot make out the meaning of it herself she sends for the minister from whose department it comes, or some other competent official, and asks him to explain it to her.

Though Li Hung Chang has passed behind the veil, his widow, a very beautiful, and, compared with her fellow-countrywomen, an exceedingly learned lady, still lives. In her magnificent home on the banks of the Pei-Ho she lives in great splendour with a retinue of over a thousand servants to minister to her desires.

End the war when it may, we have no doubt, very sensibly remarks the London Advertiser, that at a very early day the Boers will enjoy better rule and fairer treatment than was ever meted out to them by the autocracy of Kruger & Co. And if they are not then as contented, prosperous and happy as all races are in Canada, we will be much astonished.

Regarding the new coinage, the Times says:—"It will be observed that the innovation "Britt. Omn." is a triumph for Lord Roseberry, who suggested "all the Britains" as a part of the Royal style and title. The Daily Telegraph adds:—"There could have been no expression of the Imperial idea at once so felicitous and simple as that which will keep a new and universal symbol of Empire before the eyes of every subject in the land.

A writer in the Aberdeen Free Press, reviewing Dr. Whyte's Appreciation of Newman, recalls the fact that to many it is an open secret that Dr. Whyte, along with Dr. Dods and Dr. Webster Thompson, of Aberdeen, once made a pilgrimage to Birmingham, not to see Dale or Chamberlain, but to see Newman, and that the vision of a man as he lived lingers with all of them to the present time. The reviewer is believed to be Professor Iverach, who ought to know.

A curious and interesting plan has been adopted in Glasgow by certain landlords who, having improved much of their slum property, have been naturally desirous to keep it in good condition. The plan consists in offering prizes to tenants who behave themselves well and pay their rent promptly. All tenants who fulfil these conditions are allowed in summer to live rent free for a fortnight, so that if they take a holiday they need not pay two rents. The plan has worked well so far, and over 60 per cent. of the tenants have claimed the prize.

The whole civilized world will watch with more than common interest the workings of the law just enacted by New South Wales, to establish compulsory arbitration and make strikes and lockouts unlawful. The objection advanced to all proposals for compulsory arbitration has always been that it could be enforced upon only one party. The capitalists' property could be attached if they refused to comply with the law; but the workmen had little or no property to attach,

and there was no other way to punish them. The Australian law tries to meet this objection by imprisoning those guilty of disobedience; but whether it will be possible to imprison the thousands of participants in a general strike remains to be seen.

The London Daily Chronicle of Dec. 19 says: Dr. Monro Gibson (brother of Mr. James Gibson, of this city), the well-known minister of St. John's Wood Presbyterian Church, is we are glad to say, recovering from the accident to one of his eyes which occurred while golfing. The oculist's report yesterday was hopeful, and it is thought that the sight will not be permanently injured.

A remarkable account has reached San Francisco, says the "Empire," of a race of white men living near the North Pole, and descended from Sir John Franklin's men. The disappearance of Franklin's expedition has always been as much a mystery as a tragedy. In spite of fifteen relief expeditions and the efforts of the civilized nations of the world, it was never known absolutely what became of the entire party. A record of Franklin's own death and of that of many of his officers and men was found, but the majority was not accounted for.

At a late conference of English Friends a very interesting account of the rise and history of Quakerism in England was given. The Friends reached their high water mark in 1700, when out of a total English population of 5,000,000, they enrolled between 60,000 and 70,000 members. At the rate of England's growth since the Friends should number upwards of 900,000 to-day, whereas to-day most English year-books ignore their existence although they claim to number about 17,000. In the United States the census of 1890 gave 81,000 "orthodox" and 21,000 Hicksite, or Unitarian, Quakers.

Professor W. O. Atwater, of Wesleyan University, whose experiments as to the uses of alcohol have excited so much interest, made a discourse before the Hartford Medical Society the other day, in which he stated his conclusions as to alcohol's value. He finds that, like sugar, starch, and fat, it contains no nitrogen, and therefore cannot make bone, muscle, or blood, or build up tissue. But like sugar, starch, and fat, it protects the protein, or nitrogenous material, which does build up tissue, and, like them, too, it protects fat from consumption. It would seem, therefore, that the reason why fat people should eschew alcohol is that alcohol serves the body as a fuel, and when the body gets no alcohol it consumes so much more of its own fat. Professor Atwater recognizes the value of alcohol in illness, but thinks that in the past it has been prescribed overfreely by physicians. He recognizes also that, taken in excess, the damage it does to the nervous system far more than offsets its nutritive value. He thinks it a good thing for well people, and especially young people, to let alone. He urges that "for the work of temperance reform, now so greatly needed, it is essential that the action of alcohol be well understood, especially by physicians, whose influence on the public is so great.