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Note and Comment.

The Presbyterian Synod of the Maritime Provinces met at St. John, N. B., on Wednesday evening. The Rev. A. F. Carr, of Campbellton, was elected moderator.

The Chinese Government have made arrangements for the erection of expiatory monuments in the foreign cemeteries that were desecrated during the Boxer uprising.

A London sanitary official, Dr. Shirley Murphy, found that the number of cases of consumption increased in exact proportion with the number of persons living in one room.

Portugal is the most illiterate country in Europe; 67 per cent. of its population cannot write. In Italy the proportion of illiterates is 53 per cent; in Russia 36, in Spain 9, in Britain 3 1/4.

The German Emperor has issued an order that the court of the Empress Frederick be broken up on Oct. 1, when her late majesty's household will be dissolved, several of the members of it being retired on pensions.

Seth Low, President of Columbia College, has been nominated for Mayor of New York by the Republican City Convention and the Convention of the Citizens' Union. It is expected that Mr. Low will be elected this time.

Some of the wooden churches of Norway are fully 700 years old, and are still in an excellent state of preservation. The timbers have successfully resisted the frosty and almost Arctic winters because they have been repeatedly coated with tar.

It is announced that the treaty between Britain and the States regarding the Nicaragua Canal has been adjusted, and now only awaits signature. Generally, it follows the lines of the old treaty, but is very reserved regarding the neutrality clause.

Pertshire contains many romantic glens, such as Glen Quaich, the Sma' Glen, Glenogle, and others, that excite the admiration of the wanderer; but perhaps Killiecrankie in some respects excels the most of them for event, leafy adorning and splendour of scenery.

The British Post Office have been making experiments between London and Glasgow with a new system of telegraphy by which twelve messages can be sent over the same wire simultaneously, and the number can be doubled by the duplex method of transmission.

Rev. Hugh Black, before starting from Edinburgh for America, completed a volume on which he has been at work for a considerable time, devoting to it the scanty leisure a busy city pastorate allows. On Sabbath last the reverend gentleman preached in the Presbyterian Church at Princeton, N. J., to large congregations.

The Chief of Police of Passaic, N. J., has warned the publisher of Pedro Esteve's anarchist paper, *La Question Sociale* that its publication will not be permitted again in that city. The U. S. postal authorities will deny such publications the use of the mails.

On Tuesday of last week the sixty-first session of Queen's University opened with a large attendance of students. The registered students in attendance will number eight hundred, an increase of about a hundred. From his sick bed Rev. Principal Grant sent an inspiring note to the medical classes.

The first case under the Inebriates Act in Scotland was tried at Kirkwall Sheriff Court on the 20th ult. The accused, a hawker, had been 58 times convicted of petty offences, committed when under the influence of drink. He pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to three years' detention in the Perth Inebriates' Home.

Relief for the famine sufferers is necessary in nineteen provinces. To meet this the Russian Government has made large provision. Emperor Nicholas has ordered that the Central Government give 14,000,000 roubles (\$10,500,000), and the other divisions of the Government have appropriated from 100,000 to 400,000 roubles for relief.

The limit of the fruit area in Ontario has not nearly been reached, according to Prof. Macoun of the Geological Survey. He has been examining the territory between Niagara and the northerly extremity of Huron peninsula. When the land owners of this district go in for fruit culture, he says, they will raise great quantities of the finest fruits in the world, and the importance of Ontario as a fruit-growing district will greatly increase.

The old tradition that the Eskimos are a people of small stature is without foundation. On the contrary, in Labrador, Baffinland and all around Hudson Bay the height of the men is probably above rather than below the average of the human race; but as a rule the women, although very strong, are considerably shorter than the men. They are brave, industrious, provident and communicative, in all of which characteristics they contrast with the northern tribes of Indians.

Lorn Roseberry's remark in Edinburgh that Scotland has produced the greatest gardeners in the world recalls a rather cynical saying of Dr. Johnston on the subject of Scottish gardening. At Mrs. Terale's one evening Boswell remarked that England was indebted to his native land for one thing, as almost all the good gardeners in the south were Scotsmen. Johnson thereupon observed, "Why, sir, that is because gardening is much more necessary amongst you than with us, which makes so many people learn it. It is all gardening with you. Things which grow wild here must be cultivated with great care in Scotland. Pray now" (throwing himself back in his chair, and laughing), "are you ever able to bring the *sloe* to perfection.

The Modern Precilla, for October, has a specially inviting table of contents for the ladies; while the Needle Work Knitting and Crochet departments are unusually complete. Very readable and useful will be found the article on "Some Autumn Wild Flowers and their Use in Design." One dollar per year; W. N. Hartshorn, Boston, Mass.

The casket containing the remains of Abraham Lincoln was opened last week and reinterred for the thirteenth time. Eighteen people were permitted to gaze on his features to make sure that there was no mistake about the identity, and the casket was then placed in what is announced as its final resting place, though every former removal was thought to be the last. The casket now lies inside an iron case imbedded in a huge block of cement beneath the tomb of the Lincoln monument in the Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Britain is threatened with trouble with Turkey over the independence of Koweyt. Turkey is reported to have 30,000 troops concentrated there with the intention of seizing it, and Britain is evidently determined to thwart the design, as she is committed to maintain Koweyt's independence. She has already three warships in the Persian Gulf, and they are to be augmented by the gunboat Assaye, and the second-class cruiser Highflyer. Turkey has represented to Britain that her interference in the matter is "unfriendly," and that it (Turkey) only "intended to traverse Arabia with the object of suppressing disaffection in Yemen."

The vigor with which the Provincial Government is developing New Ontario is evidenced by the expenditure during the past year of \$140,000 in colonization roads alone. This, too, is a line of expenditure which touches the ordinary settler, and increases his chances of success. All the roads now laid out have been completed, with the exception of those in the Temiscaming district, where the work will be completed by the end of November. The vote for this district is \$11,000. There are at present sixty miles of roadway completed in New Ontario, of which 25 miles are new this year. Next summer grading machines will be set to work grading the roads.

Two farmers met at the Cross of Kilmarnock on a Friday, and as they came from the same district and attended the same church, "tell a-crackin'." John said to James, "Are you attendin' the kirk noo?" "No," replied the other, "I have not been to church for about two years." "Dear me," said number one, "I'm sorry to hear that o' ye. Have you and the meenister fa'in oot?" "No, the minister was at my hoose last nicht an' had tea wi' us. He's a fine fellow the minister." "Then what is adae?" "Oh! its jist this way. You ken yon body, the banker, that's an elder?" "Ay, fine." "Well, the last three times I was at the kirk he was at the plate, an' whenever I drappit my collection into the plate he stapped ower tae me, an' said, 'Your bank account is over-drawn!' That settled me.