

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

Stonehenge has been cut off from Salisbury Plain by a wire fence and a charge of a shilling is made to visitors who desire to pass the barrier in order to get a near view of the monument.

The population of the municipal area of Dublin, including the independent townships, is returned as 347,104, and Belfast is 348,965, which gives the northern city a clear majority of 1861.

The total attendance at Glasgow exhibition to 31st May, since the opening is 1,757,201, which is 873,414 more than the number which in the same period of time had visited the Exhibition of 1888.

Herman Warszawiak, the converted Hebrew missionary, about whom there was controversy in the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church during the pastorate of Dr. John Hall, has applied for a discharge in bankruptcy.

According to the Lord Lieutenant, the poverty in the South of Ireland is caused by over-population, for there are no industries to attract the people to the towns, and the barren soil will not support all the inhabitants.

The preliminary figures of the Irish census which include returns of religious profession, show that nearly all the principal religious bodies have lost ground during the past ten years. The Roman Catholic loss is over 6½ per cent.

Dr. Buckley, editor of the chief Methodist Episcopal paper in the United States, says he regards the adoption of the individual communion cup as "the most consummate humbug ever foisted upon the Christian church."

General French has proved the most successful of all the British division commanders in South Africa. He has not only made no mistakes, but he has done effective work from the very beginning of his campaign in the eastern Transvaal.

There is some waking up to the necessity of temperance reform in Newfoundland. An effort is being made in St. John's, to close the liquor saloons at 6 p. m., and open them at 8 a. m. Also to have all the liquor sold analyzed, and to debar girls occupying the position of bar tenders.

John D. Rockefeller has given \$200,000 to found "The Rockefeller Institution for Medical Research." The gift is not intended for an endowment fund, but is for immediate expenditure. Mr. Rockefeller has for some time been consulting with eminent medical men as to the need of such an institution, and he has had the best advice. Facilities for original investigation are to be provided, especially in such problems in medicine and hygiene as have a practical bearing on the prevention and treatment of disease.

The Psalmody Hymns Committee of the Church of Scotland having reported that the majority of the Highland Presbyteries are in favor of the publication of a Gaelic Hymnal, the General Assembly has empowered them to adjust and issue a collection of Hymns in Gaelic.

Lord Overtoun, speaking in Edinburgh last week, complained that England dragged Scotland at her heels, and that, had it not been so, Scotland might have had a measure of temperance reform ere now. It lay with Scotland to show the way in temperance reform as in other matters of education.

A Philadelphia firm of auctioneers recently offered at one of their sales Robinson Crusoe's musket. It was a fine old flintlock. It was in the possession of a grandniece of Alexander Selkirk, and its pedigree is much more unclouded than is usually the case with objects of this kind.

The excavations in Carthage are producing excellent results. The Punic necropolis near the altar of St. Monica, at Carthage, has resulted in the finding of painted terra cottas, censers, figurines of women, bronze razors and engraved inscriptions of human beings, birds, etc., amulets of gold, silver and ivory.

The Duke of Connaught whose installation as Masonic Grand Master at the Albert Hall, London, will, it is now known, be attended by ten thousand brethren, is the 42nd Grand Master since 1717. From that year to 1813 Grand Lodge was presided over by 38 Grand Masters. From 1813 to 1901 there have been but four.

It is now stated that a treaty for the transfer of the Danish West Indies to the United States will probably be ready for submission to the Senate next session. Negotiations are progressing. The only point unsettled is that of the price. Denmark asks \$5,000,000 for the islands, while the United States offers \$3,500,000. It is expected a compromise will be reached at \$4,000,000.

Since the new treaties have gone into effect in Japan, foreign missionaries, in connection with all others who receive salaries, have become subject to the Japanese law of an income tax, which amounts to some 3 or 4 per cent. of salaries received. Thus missionaries there who receive as much as \$1,000 a year will henceforth have to pay a tax of \$30 or \$40 annually into the government treasury. Added to the largely increased cost of living in Japan, this will indeed be no light burden.

The approaching millenary of Alfred the Great lends special interest to the estate of Winklebury, in Hampshire, now in the market. It contains the well known circular camp of that name, said to have formed a stronghold of Alfred. Excavations just made by Reginald Smith, of the British Museum, have brought to light fragments of ancient British pottery. An examination was also made in the autumn of last year, and on both occasions bones of extinct animals have been discovered, showing traces of fire, probably sacrificial.

The camp is believed to have existed before the Roman invasion. It was occupied as late as the 17th century by the Parliamentary forces when besieging Basing House.

An expedition of a private character dispatched from Norway last summer to Spitzbergen to exploit the coalfields there, has returned to Thronhjelm with good results. In Advent Bay large coalfields were discovered and seized, and some 200 hectoliters brought home as a sample. The coals, which are said to resemble anthracite, are reported by experts to be of good quality.

The Mormons are making converts in New York and vicinity, even members of churches being led away by them. The New York Herald tells that a congregational church at Port Morris lost both the President and Secretary of its C. E. Society. There is, apparently, a very determined and well organized movement being carried on by the most skillful agents of Mormonism.

Hon. Mr. Mulock, who went to Australia to represent the Canadian government at the inauguration of the new Commonwealth, was ill most of the time he was in Australia. He was not able to participate in any of the ceremonies of the occasion. On his own account, as well as because he was Canada's representative, it is regretted that his trip was so unfortunate. He is now on his way home.

These are the days of Triumphant Democracy. A Dunfermline boy, without any inherited wealth or family influence, (says the Strathern Herald) set out to push his fortune in the world, and after becoming "rich beyond the dreams of avarice" he buys a noble Scotch estate, gifts million after million for the establishment of free libraries and finally "stagers humanity" by an offer of two millions sterling as an endowment fund for the payment of all the fees of Scottish students at the Scottish universities. A Ross-shire boy enters the army as a private, and after distinguishing himself on the field is made a Knight Commander of the Bath, and is appointed to one of the highest military posts in India as a stepping-stone to a higher post, as the country has learned to trust him as a military leader.

The following description of Mrs. Eddy, the founder and head of the "Christian Science" cult, may be interesting to some readers: "She is eighty years old; she has accumulated \$1,000,000; she has been married three times; she has one son; she lives alone, except for her secretaries and companions; she is frail, and with the common defects of age; she dresses richly, and wears jewels; she spends her time in writing 'inspired' literature; she is a little deaf and a little dim of vision; she is taller than the average woman, and her erect figure is well filled out; she has seven horses; she engages her servants from orphans' homes; she taught school in her girlhood days; she adopted a young Boston physician, whose legal name is now Dr. Foster E. J. dy; she shields her face while driving with a parasol to ward off 'malign influence.'"