

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

Notwithstanding the excitement because "a woman" was to be hung when Mrs. Rogers was executed in Vermont a year ago, the Legislature of that State has again voted against repealing its death penalty law by 140 to 79.

A Presbyterian Synod has recently been held in the New Hebrides in the very spot where John Williams and his companions were murdered by cannibals seventy years ago. The sessions were opened with prayer by the son of the man who murdered John Williams.

The appreciation of Siam for the missionaries and their work was expressed by a recent utterance of the Minister of the Interior: "I'll sell the missionaries anything in the kingdom, except the palace," and the Crown Prince said, "We regard medical missionaries as our most trusted counsellors."

Our Union is firmly established, says President Roosevelt. But each generation has its special and serious difficulties! and we of this generation have to struggle with evils springing from the very material success of which we are so proud, from the very growth and prosperity of which, with justice, we boast." This idea fits the locality of Canada exactly.

We learn from the Australian Messenger that the legislators of New South Wales have passed a very strong law against gambling in connection with horse racing. "Speed contests" are all well, perhaps; but gambling is evil and only evil continually. Wise people who have a care for the highest interests of the nation and the individual regard the gambling mania with alarm. Its wide prevalence, like a deadly disease, aggravates the alarm.

Queen Alexandra of England is using her personal efforts to dissuade women from wearing the plumage of song birds. Noting this fact the Herald and Presbyter pertinently remarks: "Whether thoughtless or deliberate, the vanity of some women and the cruelty of many so-called sportsmen have been despoiling the forests of their most beautiful attractions, and the orchards, grain-fields and cotton plantations of their most effective protectors. For the empty and heartless pleasure of a few the whole world must suffer."

Whether the Wall Street Journal is sincere or 'n jest, it hits the nail on the head in the following: "What America needs more than railway extension, and western irrigation, and a low tariff, and a bigger wheat crop, and a merchant marine, and a new navy, is a revival of piety; piety that counts it good business to stop for family prayer before breakfast, right in the middle of the harvest; that quits field work half an hour earlier in order to get the chores done and go to prayer-meeting. That's what we need to clean the country of the filth of graft and greed, of worship of fine houses and big lands, of high office and grand social functions." The Christian Guardian makes an effective point when it says: "After all, there is no complete radical cure for the diseases of society save the religion of Jesus. The church of Christ is the greatest reforming agency of all ages."

Chinese newspapers, owing to the cheap quality of paper used, and to the low price of labor, both literary and mechanical, are issued at an extremely small figure. The price of the ordinary Shanghai journal is four cash, or about one-tenth of a penny.

The world's consumption of tea, outside of the countries in which it is grown, may be taken to be about 500,000,000 pounds per annum, valued at \$85,000,000. About ninety per cent. of the tea exported from Asia is consumed by English-speaking people.

A new sort of witness has been found in Detroit. A certain hotel proprietor, wishing to prove that the noise made by a railroad was injuring his property, brought into court a phonograph with records of engines tooting and cars rattling. The witness or evidence—it is hard to decide which to call it—was admitted.

Among the notable and interesting women attending the Woman's Christian Temperance Union Convention in Boston was a Japanese woman, Mrs. Kaji Yajima, the first woman in her country to take up the profession of teaching, and long the head of a Presbyterian school at Tokio. She was accompanied by her grand-daughter from Oakland, Cal., who acts as her interpreter.

There is something pitiful in the story of the negro murderer in Texas who, fearing that he might be lynched, sent for the district attorney, waived all his legal rights, and requested to be hanged. The judge agreed to take up the case the next morning, accepted a plea, pronounced sentence, and let the execution take place immediately. A company of Infantry guarded the jail over night.

Both in England and the United States there is renewed agitation to secure some action with regard to the abuses in the Congo Free State. A delegation waited upon Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and received the reply that he regarded isolated action by Great Britain as the last resource. But if negotiations with Belgium should prove inconclusive and a continuance of present conditions in the Congo Free State be threatened, it would be the duty of Great Britain to sound the other powers as to what view they held on the subject. It would be impossible, he said, for the British Government to continue to recognize the present state of affairs.

The Church of Uganda, which represents the great mission field and mission work of the English Church Missionary Society in the Uganda Protectorate of Africa, reports 14,959 native communicants, 54,471 baptized persons, 2,586 catechumens, 51 schools with 14,199 male scholars, and 10,901 female scholars. During the past year 4,355 adults and 2,241 children were baptized. The fifty-ninth foreign missionaries are aided by 1,932 male and 322 female native Christian teachers, a portion of whom are evangelists. All of the native workers are self-supporting or supported by the native church. The mission is asking for "twenty-five male missionaries in addition to those now in service, to lead the native forces which are standing ready to go forth preaching and teaching in a way no European can ever do."

In one of his recent airship trials in Paris Santos Dumont sailed his aeroplane 235 yards against the wind in twenty-one and one-fifth seconds, which is at the rate of a mile in two minutes thirty-seven seconds. He flew about twelve feet above the ground. Airship sailing is getting away from the dreams of Darius Green down to the cold fact of the twentieth century.

The Christian Guardian notes that Miss Woodswordth, who goes to China under the auspices of the Women's Missionary Society, is to be supported by the Sunday school of Central Methodist church, Toronto, which school proposes at the same time to fully keep up its regular contributions to missions. That "over and above" idea is a splendid one, and nearly every school, church, or individual that has tried it has found that the extra burden could be carried quite easily.

A new mission has recently been opened by the English Church Missionary Society at Kaiyama, in the Ijo Country in the Delta of the Niger, West Africa. "The people are friendly and are building a place where we shall be able to hold a school and divine service. The work is quite new, and the people have never heard the name of God. The attendance at the school is encouraging. Here is a country wholly untouched and only two missionaries and two West Indian agents to work over 4,000 square miles, and most of the inhabitants must be reached by canoe."

Ralph Connor is out with a new book, "The Doctor," and this is what an American paper says of it: "Such is the interest taken in any book sent out by this popular writer that the first edition of this, his latest story, called for one hundred thousand copies. It is enough to say that this is characterized by the elements of interest that have made its predecessors so pleasing. This Presbyterian minister writes with a purpose, and that to make the world have a better knowledge and grasp of the truth of God as it should be seen in the life of those who are good men and women."

The Belfast Witness publishes the following interesting paragraph suggestive of the thrilling history of a brave and once terribly persecuted people: "The Synod of the Waldensian church met at its historic centre, Torre-Pellicci, two hours from Turin, in September. The Synod was composed of seventy ministers and seventy elders. The most prominent place was given to the report of the Committee on Evangelization. The work of this committee has been for some years under the wise and efficient superintendence of Cavaliere Prochet, who was educated in Belfast, who has thrown into it a zeal and power seldom equalled. Having reached the age of seventy-three years, this trusted leader retires, Rev. Signor Muston, from Genoa, being chosen to succeed him. Some of the delegates from foreign churches were conducted up the mountain side to the cave in which, during times of persecution, the Waldensians of Torre-Pellicci used to meet to worship. The Synod exchanged telegrams with the King of Italy. Under the care of the Waldensian church there are now thirty-two Women's Christian Associations in as many Italian cities."