

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

The work of murder, if not of revolution, is progressing in Russia. Within ten days nearly five hundred subjects of the Czar have been killed or wounded by the hands of assassins.

The Westminster, of Philadelphia, says: Cables from South America to the American Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions have reported that at Santiago property has been destroyed, but the missionaries are safe and that the damage to mission property at Valparaiso has been to the extent of \$8,000,000.

The great need of temperance reform in all South American republics is reported by a gentleman who has recently made a tour through that country. He states that in Rothschild's great mine in Chili there are probably not a dozen total abstainers among the four thousand employees.

The official Catholic Directory records 12,651,944 Catholics in the United States, 1,229,668 children in the 4,281 parochial schools. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is rated fifth in population, having 485,000, with 521 priests. New York and Chicago are each rated as having 1,200,000 Catholic inhabitants; Boston, 700,000; Brooklyn, 500,000, and New Orleans, 450,000.

Rev. Herbert Symonds, vicar of Christ Church Cathedral, has addressed on open letter to Bishop Williams, of Huron, London, on the question of church unity in Canada. He points out that apostolic succession is the chief stumbling block; a doctrine which he would not affirm if other denominations would accept the historic episcopate. Dr. Symonds asked Dr. Williams to actively interest himself in the Christian Union committee of general synod of the Anglican Church and to use his influence with that body to appeal to the Presbyterian Church to take the initiative to call another conference of all Christian communions of the Dominion.

The true facts concerning the earthquake at Valparaiso are now coming to light, and in all truth they are of appalling character, almost bearing out the most sensational of the original reports. Already the dead bodies of 2,000 persons have been recovered from the ruins in Valparaiso itself, where the destruction of property has been immense. In Santiago some 3,000 houses have been so seriously injured that their destruction is imperative. It is estimated that over the stricken area as many as 60,000 people have been rendered homeless, and that the destruction of property involves a loss exceeding \$100,000,000.

There is truth and force in the following from an American exchange: "In their total membership, in their aggregate property holdings, in their combined intellectual, social and moral influence the churches represent enormous power, and where united for one end, they are capable of almost any achievement in the interests of the public. In all the respects named the churches together far outweigh the combined interests of the liquor dealers, and if they acted as harmoniously and solidly together as the latter do would have no difficulty in accomplishing their purposes. Acting as one strong arm, they could strike a blow at the liquor curse from which it could never recover."

"The restoration of the Jews" to their own land, so earnestly prayed for by Christians throughout the world, seems to be in sight. It has just been decided to carry loyally the decision of the last Zionist congress to make a home for the Jewish nation in Palestine and the surrounding country.

The birthplace of John Bunyan, the little cottage at Estow, near Bedford, is so dilapidated that it may collapse at any moment. An appeal has been made in a London paper to the English people, and especially to the Baptist community, for the purchase of this cottage, so that it may be presented to the nation and preserved as a memorial to the inspired colt-bler.

Mr. B. E. Walker, general manager of Bank of Commerce—"The problems of the west are difficult, owing to its rapid growth. Settlers are coming in so rapidly that it is difficult to give them a sufficiency of railroads, banks, doctors, lawyers and the ordinary appurtenances of civilization. The banks are as willing as the railroads to expend large sums of money in districts where there is yet but the promise of future richness. In many such districts costly bank premises are erected, and this may be taken as proof of the faith of financiers in the future of the country."

One of our missionaries, Rev. John Griffiths, Honan, North China, in an interview with a reporter of the Winnipeg Tribune, said: "China is awakening and her entrance into the family of nations will bring enormous consequences to the American continent. She is a country of vast natural riches, still undeveloped by reason of superstitious fears, and of dense population. Her superstitions are to-day giving ground before the reasoning of missionaries, and the arguments of many of her own journalists, and already Chinese theorists are busy seeking the regeneration and re-organization of the empire. Her commercial awakening will mean much to the American continent."

The agitation over the separation of Church and State in France, says the Christian Intelligencer, instead of subsiding will from now on probably wax hotter. The Pope's recent encyclical on the subject is not of a character to allay the bitter feeling occasioned by the government's action on separation. As was naturally to be supposed, no legislation would satisfy the Pope which interfered with the supremacy of the Papacy. This the law does as it now stands, and the French Minister of Public Worship asserts that the law will be carried out, avoiding all offence possible. The requirement of the law that public worship associations be constituted which shall have a voice in the management of church property, is entirely unsatisfactory to the Pope, who at the same time indicates that some other *modus vivendi* between the Church and the Government which will not compromise the dignity of the Roman Pontiff might possibly be agreed upon. Unfortunately for the Pope and the Roman hierarchy, the French are not in a mood to adopt conciliatory measures, and there is no telling to what bitter length the controversy will be carried. While the Pope advises French Catholics to be firm in their disapproval of what he considers the iniquitous character of the legislation which has severed the tie that bound the Church of Rome to the French Republic, at the same time he counsels that their opposition be not riotous nor disorderly.

The number of women having membership in the Congregational churches of the United States is nearly twice as large as the number of men. The figures, when the last statistics were gathered, were 239,100 men, 542,222 women. In 1850 the proportion was about the same, being 73,736 men, 146,625 women. At no time during the intervening years was there other than a slight change.

Dr. J. R. Miller, of Philadelphia, of whose devotional works a million and a half copies have been sold, is sixty-six years old, but "growing younger every year," according to a writer in the Quiver. He is the pastor of a Presbyterian church with 800 members, and also editor of four weekly Presbyterian journals. His office hours are from eight to six, after which he gives a long evening to pastoral affairs.

The Y. M. C. A., of Denver, Colo., organized three years since a health farm, six miles from the city, for consumptives. Forty-six tents are now in operation. A charge of \$25 a month is made for board and medical attendance. Patients are paid for the work they do, and 250 have been received. So far there have been but three deaths. Mr. W. M. Dunner, the father of this beneficent scheme, is giving his entire time to the project.

The joint commission on Federation in the Methodist Episcopal Church, North, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has recently passed a resolution recommending that when two Methodist churches in the same community, one belonging to the denomination, North, and one to the Southern body, both desire to unite, they may do so with the approval of their supervising bishops. The resolution has been approved by the bishops of the Northern church.

The Russian Government has decided to proceed immediately with the distribution of Crown and other land among the peasants. About 20,000,000 acres are to be offered, which includes most of the Crown lands, except the forests, which are to be preserved for the good of the whole country; and also lands belonging to the State, which are distinct from those owned by the Czar. This will amount to about 15,000,000 acres, and 5,000,000 acres more are to be purchased from owners of private estates. The lands will be sold to the peasants, or leased for a long period. There is also to be a provision for rectifying boundaries. While a single owner often has a long, narrow strip or detached pieces, an attempt will be made, through exchanges, to give each peasant a block of land in a solid body, and also to make each holding accessible by highways. The proposed purchase of estates from present owners is to be made by means of land script, which in time will be redeemed in cash, or more probably funded in long-time bonds. The Czar does not give the people the Crown lands, but is to receive script for them the same as other holders. The purpose of the government is to detach the peasants from other revolutionists. It is believed that with more land they will have no further interest in the present agitation. This plan would undoubtedly have been successful a year ago, so far as the peasants are concerned, and it probably promises most for the Czar's advisers even yet, but it cannot now stop the revolution.