

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

At a cabinet council in Paris at which M. Loubet presided, it was decided to officially inaugurate the Paris Exposition on Saturday, April 14.

A western editor has announced that for one day he will edit his paper as the devil would edit it. The readers of that paper will not detect any marked difference.

Lord Salisbury shares with the late Mr. Gladstone a hatred of smoking, and it is strictly forbidden for guests to smoke in any of those apartments of Hatfield House which are used by the host.

It is estimated that as many as 125 French priests have given up their positions in the Romish church of France during the last two years. Of these a large number have held quite high places.

The highest observatory in Germany is situated on the Schneekoppe, the highest summit of the Silesian Mountains, the elevation being 5,216 feet. It will be managed by the Prussian authorities.

It is stated that the profits of the Topcka paper for the week it had Mr. Sheldon editor were \$90,000, and that Mr. Sheldon got as his share \$10,000. It was not then, a wholly disinterested experiment on the part of publisher or editor.

Lord Strathcona, as a result of the severe cold that troubled him so much a few weeks ago, is still somewhat weak, and has been consequently compelled to put off his projected visit to Canada, for a couple of months at any rate.

The times are growing better, morally, we are sure. Only a few years ago the lotteries were doing their ruinous work through the mails without impediments. Some day the saloon evil will meet with an interdiction similar to that which has been visited upon the lottery.

It is said that there are two kinds of speakers: those who have to say something and those who have something to say. We presume, too, that there are two classes of listeners: those who are compelled to listen to something or other, and those who listen to something worth hearing.

In the course of a lecture, delivered to the students of the Free Church College, Glasgow, at which Professor George Adam Smith took the chair, Rev. W. W. Beveridge, of Port Glasgow, contended that as man was body as well as soul, to care for and discipline the body was as clearly a part of the moral code as to care for and discipline the soul. Mr. Beveridge admitted that the present enthusiasm for athletics was a just cause of concern to many people, who yet failed to preserve a moral perspective in their judgments, and embraced the wholesome pursuit of athletic pastimes in the same sweeping condemnation with the worst debaucheries. He counselled the students, as prospective ministers, not to denounce the games of young men and stand aloof from them, but to manifest an interest in them and seek to purify them from harmful associations. To Christianise athletics would be the dawn of a new era for the young men of our country.

Almost without exception all great London physicians and all great surgeons are in favor of total abstinence. Some surgeons will not undertake to perform operations upon persons who have been addicted to drink; they value their reputations too highly to risk failure.

Said Napoleon to La Place. "I see no mention of God in your system of theology." "No, sire," was the answer, "we have no longer any need of that hypothesis." A half-century of anarchy and social disorder in unhappy France was the result—the awful "reign of terror." How much wiser was Montesquieu, who said: "God is as necessary as freedom to the welfare of France!"

Mr. Robert Gillespie Reid, the Newfoundland magnate and Canadian millionaire, now on a visit to London, is a philanthropist as well as a shrewd business man. His benefactions are not, perhaps, on so large a scale as those of his fellow-townsmen Lords Strathcona and Mount Stephen and Sir William C. McDonald, who together have already given nearly two millions sterling to charitable objects, but on account of his many acts of unostentatious munificence he well deserves a place in this quartet of great-hearted Montreal Scotchmen.

The other day a friend held up a small bottle before us and said it contained arsenic. The small white pellets had a wicked and murderous gleam. Yet he was taking them with unhesitating confidence on the prescription of his physician; that was faith pure and profound. We live by such faith in all relations of life. But if faith is so universal and vital in our relations with men, can it suddenly lose its virtue and become unreal and unreasonable when it runs up into our relations with God? No, the higher faith rises in our human life the finer and richer it grows, and it reaches its highest attainment and most blessed fruits when it grows into fellowship with our heavenly Father.

The Presbyterian form of Church government holds the balance between prelacy and independency. Prelacy is in its principle absolutism; independency is essentially individualism. Each is an extreme, though each has something sound in it. Presbyterianism is representative government, where those chosen by the people, under Christ, exercise rule and authority in his church. This conserves the liberty of the people, which is exaggerated in independency, and it retains corporate authority, which is exalted beyond measure in prelacy. This is the beauty and balance of our Presbyterian polity which give it such simplicity and power. Moreover, its scripturalness must always be kept distinctly in mind.

A tunnel under the Bosphorus has been talked of many times. There is large traffic between the two sides of the Bosphorus and the delay caused by the opening and shutting of the bridge of boats, which now forms the only connection, is a great drawback. The railroad company is now constructing its lines on both sides, but this will not be of very great avail until the lines can be connected. Tunneling by the ordinary methods is hindered by the fact that the water is extremely deep and there is 20 or 30 feet of mud at the bottom. It has been proposed to suspend or float a tunnel some 35 feet below the surface of the water, thus allowing uninterrupted passage to vessels of even large draft. It is impossible to state whether this plan can be carried out or not. There seems to be great engineering difficulties in the way.

Greedy trusts are not the only things that are growing fast in this age. The spirit of altruism is rapidly increasing, as is shown by the fact that \$55,000,000 more than in 1899 was given in educational and philanthropic bequests.

Two representatives of the Ojibway Indians immortalized by Longfellow's "Hiawatha," were recently entertained at the Craigie house, Cambridge, by Longfellow's daughters. One was the nephew and the other the grandson of Hahkwajinene, the chief that once entertained Longfellow in his wigwam on Lake Superior.

A restaurant for workmen has been established by Sir Thomas Lipton in London, with a donation of half a million dollars. There are facilities for serving ten or twelve thousand persons daily, and the dining rooms have accommodation for 1,500 persons at a time. The cost of a full meal is nine cents, and hot meals are sent to schools anywhere within a radius of three miles for one cent per head.

The impression made by Anglo-Saxon civilization on the mind of Li Hung Chang was evidently no passing one, for his two grandsons, aged respectively eighteen and twenty one, have just arrived in the United States for the purpose of studying the English language and the civilization of the West. They are at present in Nashville, Tennessee, and will take up a course of lectures at Vanderbilt University, where they will remain four or five years before returning to their native country.

Some samples of the cement used in the antique water conduits of Ephesus and Smyrna were recently subjected to chemical analysis, and the various samples were found to be similar in composition. The waterworks from which the samples of cement were taken were constructed from a period several centuries before Christ to three hundred years after. The chief constituent of the samples was calcium carbonate mixed with a small percentage of organic material. This latter was found to consist of a mixture of fatty acids. Experiments were made with a cement such as burned lime and olive or linseed oil, but it was not found to be permanent. On the other hand, a mixture of two-thirds of either slag or lime and one-third olive oil hardened readily and possessed such great endurance that it led to the belief that this was the composition of the ancient cements which were analyzed.

In an eloquent memorial sermon preached in Liberton Free Church, Midlothian, by the Rev. George Dodds B. D., on the death of Major General Wauchoppe, the following interesting illustration of that distinguished General's deep-seated love for Presbyterianism occurs. An Anglican chaplain in his division had said he would take no part in a Gordon Memorial service if the Presbyterian chaplain were to share it. The General used what persuasion he could to move the chaplain to a broader view of things, declaring that "he would not displace the Presbyterian, whom he had considered one of the best of men." He was a Presbyterian himself along with most of his regiment. And when persuasion failed, and the Anglican still held his point, the General said, "Then there is nothing for me but to report you to my General of Division. When General Gatacre heard the story, he reported the affair to the Sirdar, who called the three chaplains—Presbyterian, Anglican, and Roman Catholic—and said, laconically, something like this, "You are each under orders, and the man who disobeys must fall to the rear."