

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

Japan is at this moment, from a missionary standpoint, the most strategic spot on this planet. It is the door most widely open, and the door which opens to widest work and influence. For Japan's door opens directly to China.

Publicans are complaining loudly of the depression which has come over the liquor traffic in London. The average receipts at many London public houses have dropped 20 per cent within the space of a few months, while expenses are increasing to an almost corresponding extent.

A New York paper lately published a letter attacking missions on the ground that "the Bible says, 'Charity begins at home.'" People who do not read the Bible are often rash enough to attack missions, but they rarely certify the honesty of their ignorance as did this man by signing name and address.

In five months the baptisms in the American Baptist Mission at Kentung, North Burma, have amounted to 1,306. During 1901, in the China Inland Mission, 2,357 people confessed Christ in baptism. The number baptized in 1903 was 1,729. We pray for the harvest, let us not forget to pray for those who have newly taken up the responsibility of the Christian life.

The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, in addition to its Bible teaching, is preparing to enter upon an evangelistic campaign the coming autumn and winter. Prominent and well equipped evangelists and noted singers are enlisted for the campaign, and it is expected Dr. Torrey and Mr. Alexander will take part in it. Chicago is to be the centre of the work, which will be conducted on interdenominational lines.

The wonderful revival of Wales has had echoes in many places, but perhaps none more characteristic than the revival in the Khasia Hills of Assam, the field of the Welsh mission. There town after town has been stirred to repentance and new consecration, many have joined the church, a marvellous movement has begun among the children in the schools, and everywhere the chapels are filled with enquirers.

The Methodist Episcopal Church will next year celebrate their first half-century of missionary work in India. Dr. William Butler landed in India on September 23, 1836, and entered his chosen field in Northern India in November of the same year. There are now one hundred missionaries enrolled in connection with the mission, and the converts number, including children, upward of one hundred and fifty thousand. The jubilee will be fittingly celebrated both in India and in the United States.

General Booth, of the Salvation Army, has returned from Australia to England greatly pleased with his experiences during his five months' tour in the Antipodes. He believes, as "Father Endeavor Clark" does, that Australia has a wonderful future before it. The vital need of Australia, he says, is more population, and he is prepared to promote his schemes of emigration on a greater scale than ever before. Hardly had he landed in England when the old General started off on a 2,000-mile "motor" tour in the interests of Christian work.

One of the most noted of the European delegates at the Baptist World Congress was Baron Wikskull, a Russian nobleman who lives in a castle on a great estate in the province of Esthonia. On this property he has built a Baptist chapel, as well as another in the city of Revel, thirty miles away. The Baron is described as altogether a fascinating and remarkable personality. He is very tall and of commanding appearance, and is still in the early prime of life. The Baron explained that his family had never belonged to the Greek Orthodox Church, but to the Lutheran Church, and that he did not feel any deep spiritual impression until he read some of Tolstoy's thoughts on the character of Jesus. Then he began to study the Bible more earnestly and as a result was led to preach.

The recent visit of the Shah of Persia to Europe recalls to the Paris "Gaulois" an anecdote of the late Shah during his once famous tour in England. It is given on the authority of his late Persian Majesty's body physician, and if not exactly authenticated, is at least ben trovato. According to the story the Shah was dining with his present Majesty the King, then Prince of Wales, and asparagus was served. Now the Shah had never seen asparagus, and was as much at a loss how to eat it as the Chinese Emperor is said to have been where to sit in the first brougham ever offered to him. He made a "shot" for it, and after eating half the stalks, threw the other half on the carpet behind him. The story adds, that to keep his guest in countenance the Prince did the same. To complete the consternation of the servants, the other guests, like good courtiers, imitated the Royal example.

At Gratz, in Syria, Austro-Hungary, there died recently an old woman named Premer, who deserves to rank among the remarkable misers of history. For years she had occupied two miserable rooms, her clothing bespoke the utmost misery, and she was mainly supported by charitable institutions. Some time since she fell ill, and being found by the doctor on an old mattress with a cotton blouse and an old mantle for her, she was taken to a hospital, where she has died within the past few days. And now a strange discovery has been made in overhauling her miserable belongings. Thirteen different bank-books, all in different names, but evidently belonging to the dead woman, and all relating to substantial sums, have been brought to light. But the most amazing find of all was a sort of wall recess, which contained £16,400 in gold and securities. As the old woman had no relatives, this hoard will go to the State.

Sir Christopher Furness, who is reported to have purchased a fleet of six ships from the Neptune Company, is the head of one of the most famous firms of steamship builders in the world. Methodism is somehow or another connected in most people's minds with a decent poverty—with a quiet and genteel method of making life. Sir Christopher is one of the rare Primitive Methodist millionaires, and since he has reached a position of power he has by no means forgotten the fact. He has benefitted innumerable Free Churches by paying their debts, and a few years ago gave 5,000 guineas to the denominational new century fund. We remember once hearing the late George Needham, evangelist, say that when the Lord could trust him with wealth He would give it to him." Sir Christopher

Furness has shown that he can be trusted with great wealth. Unfortunately, many men who have been trusted with great wealth have broken the trust.

Under the caption of "Drinking America Not Pay" the Philadelphia North American draws attention to the important fact that while organizations which concern themselves with the moral welfare of the people are spending time, money and honest effort in an attack to overcome the liquor traffic and its attendant evils by appealing to the sentimental side of human nature, the railroads and certain other great corporations are actually accomplishing this end by a practical appeal to the pockets of their employees. Rules prohibiting their employees from indulging in liquor or frequenting saloons while on duty are now strictly enforced by nearly every American railroad, and within the last few weeks the Chicago and Alton Company has consistently amended its conduct regulation so as to prohibit officials of the company carrying liquor in their private cars when travelling on business or making tours of inspection. Who says that genuine temperance principles are not making progress?

Toledo, Ohio, is essentially a beer-drinking city. The German population is very large. Five of the largest breweries in the country are here. Probably more beer is drunk, in proportion to the population, than in any other city in the United States. The practice of these physicians is, therefore, largely among beer drinkers, and they have had abundant opportunities to know exactly its bearings on health and disease. They all agree that no man can drink beer safely, that it is an injury to any one who uses it in any quantity, and that its effect on the general health of the country has been even worse than that of whisky. One physician who practised 28 years in Toledo said: "I think beer kills quicker than any other liquor." Beer drinkers, he says, succumb very quickly to any prevalent disease which attacks them, and they are very subject to dropsy and Bright's disease. This testimony is borne out by seven other Toledo physicians, whose opinions are given in a recently published article.

Dr. John A. Otte, writing from Amoy, China, says that country is awake, very much awake indeed. He says that one of the first evidences of this fact is a widespread and systematic crusade against renewal of the treaty with the United States excluding Chinese laborers; and in connection with this is the union of the heathen and Christian element in the boycott movement. There can be no doubt that the Chinese people are very much incensed at the scurvy treatment which has been meted out to Chinamen who have gone to the United States. Dr. Otte says: "Now, while there are elements of danger in the present movement, still, on the whole, it is a good sign. It proves that the nation is reborn. A new national life has begun. China is beginning to move. It is true it is still only a tottering pace, but it is better than absolute stagnation. God grant that this new life may be led into Christian channels, for if this is not done the 'yellow peril' is a real thing. The eyes of the world are not open to the danger of the present change in the Far East." The Chinese exclusionists of Canada, as well as those of the United States, would do well to make a note of this significant movement in the celestial empire.