

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

Hungary has expelled Mormon preachers, on the ground that they are undesirable, both from the standpoint of state policy and religion.

There are 20,000 communicants in the churches of the twelve Protestant Societies doing mission work in Mexico, and about 50,000 adherents.

The General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church voted on Saturday to give the individual churches permission to use instrumental music in their services.

According to the last report of the Royal Zoological Society of Ireland, the demand for Dublin-born lions is more than they can cope with. Quite recently they have sold four lion cubs.

The movement from the Roman Catholic to the Protestant church in Austria has won 45,000 converts, and the Catholics themselves acknowledge a loss of 37,000. May the cause of truth continue to prosper in that land of superstition.

Seven Bohemians in one shop in Cleveland have embraced the Christian life and joined a Protestant mission. They were all brought up in the Roman Catholic church. The noon shop meeting talks appealed to them.

The Presbyterian General Assembly, in session at Winona Lake, Ind., on the 18th inst., elected as moderator the Rev. Dr. James D. Moffat, the president of Washington and Jefferson College.

Mr. John Wilson, sen., has been an elder in Linlithgow since 1855, is now in his 93rd year, and was present at Hope-town House on the occasion of the visit of King George IV. to the Earl of Hope-town in 1822.

A band of a dozen students from MacMaster University have begun work at Port Arthur, Ontario, and will continue holding evangelistic services throughout the summer months in Manitoba and the West. This is a line of evangelistic effort from which excellent results may be expected.

Warwick claims to possess in Miss Owen the oldest Sunday school teacher in the United Kingdom. She has taught in local Sunday Schools for eighty-two years, and although she is now in her ninety-fourth year, she still takes a class every Sunday.

In Wales there are about 500,000 people who cannot speak English, Welsh being their only language; in Scotland there are 43,000 persons who can speak nothing but Gaelic, and in Ireland there are 32,000 who can express themselves only in the Irish tongue.

A western minister recently gave utterance to his feelings regarding the rum business in these words: "I am against the saloon because it opposes everything that my life stands for in this world. If I can get hold of a boy I may lead him into Christian manhood; let the saloon get hold of him and he is lost to all that is good."

A proposal is on foot to have the Gaelic language taught in Dunedin, New Zealand. It is stated that probably a Gaelic sermon will be preached weekly or monthly at Chalmers Church in that city, and the Burns Club, Gaelic and Caledonian Societies might arrange with the preacher to start classes for teaching the young generation of Scotch Colonialists the language of their forefathers.

The Baptist Missionary Society (England) proposes to induce every ministerial association to appoint a missionary committee that shall plan for and press the interests of missions in its own field. It also plans to hold all day missionary conventions in different cities, not to ask contributions, but to inform and to give stimulus to the people.

It is a startling fact that out of the total of 140,406,135 women in India, only 543,495 are able to read and write; 197,662 are under instruction, the great majority of them in missionary schools. The total number of illiterates recorded in the country is 246,546,176, leaving 47,814,189 of both sexes unaccounted for. Latest statistics show that 3,195,220 are under instruction.

Sir Charles Warren, conspicuous in South African affairs, presiding at a meeting in Exeter Hall recently, gave it as his opinion that the civil and military authorities in South Africa could do little without the aid of the missionaries. His opinion of the Boer was not the highest. He said the Boer hated the missionary with a perfect hatred, because he saved the native from slavery. His testimony in both directions cannot be far from the truth.

In an English missionary school in British New Guinea the scholars were lately asked how many of them had ever tasted human flesh. Only one could deny the accusation. A mission in such surroundings is like a forlorn hope in warfare; when it attains success the result is worth the long and terrible struggle.

The Young People's Societies of Christian Endeavor in the United States contain a membership of 1,800,000. There are about 2,500,000 members of denominational organization, making 4,300,000. A goodly host, surely; 1,500,000 of these are young men.—The United Presbyterian.

The Pope's infallibility did not save him from blundering seriously in a conversation with Redmond, the leader of the Irish party in the British House of Commons. His holiness spoke in commendation of the spirit and methods of the Irish National League. It is said that it has been intimated to him by his English bishops, and also by the British government, that his remarks were not wise, and would have a mischievous effect. It would be well if the Pope and those who represent him would cease meddling with affairs that are none of their business.

The value of a religious paper in a family is far greater than many know. Where it has long been taken and read in Christian homes, it does its part in creating and establishing the reading tastes of the children, and developing in them interest in things good. And when they establish homes of their own they want the religious paper in them. No small sum is better invested by parents than the price they pay for the religious paper. It pays them dividends of incalculable worth.

A London, (Eng.), "Daily News," correspondent asserts that Mr. Evan Roberts is not without humour. "He asked me if I could explain to him the difference between the Press of Scripture days and the Press of today. I told him I doubted the existence of the Press in that early period. 'Oh,' he said, 'read your Bible, and you will find that owing to the press Zacheus was unable to see Jesus. So he climbed a tree. The press was at that time an obstacle to people seeing Jesus, but today a section of it is offering every facility for people to get in touch with religious work.'

It is considered a certainty that the separation of Church and State in France will be achieved. The five French cardinals have addressed a long letter to President Loubet, protesting against the proposed change. Separation, they declare, deeply wounds the Catholic conscience, will mean the loss of religious liberty, and will be followed by religious persecution. They ask that the Concordat may stand, and that any useful modifications should be made by mutual agreement between the authorities of Church and State. This plea should have been made long ago, and is, of course, now too late. The prevailing feeling is that the separation should be equitably carried out. Doubtless, the Remplic will deal generously with the priest-hog, though that body have not deserved a generous treatment.

In an article on the state of religious matters in Russia, the "Christian World" makes a pertinent reference to the intolerance practised in England towards Nonconformists. The writer says—"Russia is not the only country where conscience and spiritual independence are under taboo. English Nonconformists are not transported to Siberia, but some of the best of them of late have seen the inside of prisons. The Education Acts, with their monstrous invasion of private rights, their premium on Conformity, their stigma and disabilities fixed on Dissent, have shown what the Tory Englishman in the twentieth century is capable of in the way of intolerance when the chance is afforded him. The villages could add colour to this story. There are multitudes of Pobiedostzeffs in our country parishes. It is time their tyranny was brought to an end." The Belfast Witness improves on this pen picture by saying: "That fling at the Episcopalian parson is only too fully justified. But there is another tyranny wherever the Prelatic Church has power, that is the social boycott, carried out by their laymen, aye and laywomen, who, with nose in air, cut the Dissenter dead in any chance company, and try to fix a society stigma on him, no matter how good or worthy he may be. We defy the Russians or the Roman Catholics to outdo the Anglican snobbery." Evidently a good deal of common-sense reform is required in England.

Press despatches from Aden, Arabia, have furnished important intelligence respecting impending changes in that country and in the Turkish empire. A revolt of growing dimensions has failed to be arrested by the troops sent out by the Sultan to suppress it. On the contrary a force of 6,000 has been defeated by the Arabs, only 1,000 reaching Sanaa, for whose relief they were despatched. This may mean for the Sultan's authority as the head of the Mohammedan world the beginning of the end. A dispatch from London in reference to the above defeat says: "Officials conversant with the situation in Yemen province regard the situation there as being in the nature of a life or death struggle for the Sultan of Turkey. Should the situation in Yemen continue to spread north to Hejaz, and if the Sultan's authority is wiped out in that holy land of Mohammedanism, he will lose all claims to the title of protector of the holy places, which is regarded as the main factor in holding his empire together." The Rev. S. W. Zwemer, D.D., head of the Arabic Mission, maintained by the Reformed (Presbyterian) Church of the United States, lately arrived home from there and writes the Christian Intelligencer that this defeat of the Sultan's troops may prove of immense importance in connection with Arabia. What effect it may have on the mission only the future will reveal, but since God reigns it cannot be permanently adverse.