

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents

NOTE AND COMMENT

Monarchists were overwhelmingly victorious in elections held in Portugal.

Edict from throne at Peking, China, was issued appropriating 90,000 taels for creation of an Opium Board to control or suppress the use of opium.

Herbert Henry Asquith was appointed prime minister and First Lord of the Admiralty, to succeed Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, resigned.

The Transvaal Government has decided to reconsider its attitude toward Asiatics, with a view to finding a less objectionable registration system.

At the recent meeting of the Presbytery of Durham, it was decided to nominate Professor Skinner for the Principalship of Westminster College.

James Bertram, Andrew Carnegie's private secretary, is one of the most highly-paid secretaries in America. He is the man who really gives away the Carnegie libraries, as he makes a careful investigation of all demands, and the great philanthropist usually acts on his opinion.

A large gathering of church members and others assembled in Anfield-road Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel last week to bid farewell to the retiring pastor, the Rev. Owen Owens, who for thirty-six years has ministered to the church with marked success. Mrs. Owens was presented with a handsome watch-bracelet.

Of the 80,000 Catholics in the Diocese of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, 45,000 are Highland exiles or their descendants. 20,000 are French and 15,000 Irish. There are sixty Gaelic speaking priests, of whom the dean is Bishop Cameron. An old man he is, who has himself seen Popes Gregory XVI., Pius IX., Leo XIII and Pius X. Besides the sixty priests, there are about fifty Gaelic-speaking nuns in the diocese, who are chiefly engaged in the schools.

There are in Paris 43 French Protestant churches of different denominations, and in the outskirts there are 47 more, making a total of 90 churches where French Protestants worship. In three of these English services are also held, and in four of them German services. There is also one Swedish church. The British and American churches number six in all as two of the Wesleyan churches are used for both languages. There are in Paris and the immediate environs some fifty or sixty thousand Protestants.

Business will be greatly injured, we are told, by the adoption of local option. We are happy to admit it. Here, for instance, are a few of the kinds of business that will be injured: The saloon business; the gambling business; the pawn shop business; the Sabbath breaking business; the bawdy house business; the poor house business; the work house business; the suicide business; the police court business; the crime breeding business; the orphan-making business; the divorce business; the thug business; the hangman's business. It will be a bad day for these industries should local option carry.

The Rev. Dr. Turnbull, for 49 years a minister of the Church of Scotland and for 39 years parish minister of Dailly, Ayrshire, is dead in his seventy-fourth year. He was educated at Glasgow School and Glasgow University, and tied for first prize in Latin competition with Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman.

A new railroad regulation in Norway provides that a wife travelling with her husband shall be charged only half fare. Norway gave women Parliamentary suffrage last year. "Is the new regulation meant for an inducement to husband's when they go on an excursion, to take their wives along?" asks the Woman's Journal.

Of the educational work of the Baptists in Burma a writer in the Reflector says: "Besides the Karen Theological Seminary there is a seminary for the young Burman preachers. There are about thirty students here. The Rangoon Baptist College has in attendance about 1,100. In addition to the above is a school for the Karens, and also a school for Burman girls."

A distinguished Scotch preacher says that he always thinks of three things when he appears before an audience, first, that every person in the audience is mortal; second, that each one before him is immortal; and third, the latent power there is in such an assemblage. With these three thoughts constantly before him, every minister must recognize the high responsibility of his office, and the holy joy that responsibility brings.

Mr. Donald Maclean, one of the Members of Parliament for Bath, gets the place of honour in the Presbyterian Messenger for April, his portrait appearing on the front page. Mr. Maclean, who is a Cardiff solicitor, is a member of Windsor-place Church (Rev. Wm. Lewis Robertson's). He is a strong advocate of temperance reform, and has closely identified himself with the work of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Sir Asquith, the new Premier of Great Britain, will make a few changes in the Cabinet, shifting some men from one position to another, but no general change of policy is expected, although the Government will, on the whole, be rather more conservative than under Sir Campbell-Bannerman. There was a little talk that Lord Rosebery might be invited into the Cabinet. If he would have accepted it would have added greatly to the strength of the Government, but would also have alienated many of the Government's supporters.

Dread of being buried alive is not unwarranted. Indeed, cases have been recorded where on the very eve of burial the supposed deceased has revived to the astonishment of mourning relatives and friends. A writer in the Paris "Cosmos" has been considering this subject from the standpoint of recent scientific methods of ascertaining the fact of death. The simplest method appears to be to take the temperature of the body. If the interior temperature is about twenty degrees (sixty-eight degree Fahrenheit) "death" he says, "is sure." This method is, one would think, within the reach of all. The general adoption of it would, therefore, dissipate all uncertainty as to the actual fact of death.

The British House of Commons is limited to six hundred and seventy members. The House of Lords, as shown by "The Roll of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal," just issued, gives the names of six hundred and fifteen members.

The people of the British Isles consume less liquor per throat than they did a generation ago, the figures being six litres apiece in 1870, and now five. In twenty years Denmark has fallen from 18.6 to 14.2; Norway from 16 in 1833 to 3.1 in 1900; Sweden from 12 in 1850 to 7.3 in 1900; Switzerland from 9.2 in 1861 to 4.9 in 1900. Germany changes little. Austria-Hungary and Belgium are on the up grade, guzzling more alcohol yearly, and France holds the accursed lead, having increased its application of hot and rebellious liquors from 2.4 litres per capita in 1831 to 8.7 in 1900.

How widespread investment has been, even by clergymen in English brewery stocks, and how it turns the edge of the opposition to the reform proposed by the government, may be judged by the figures which a correspondent of the Methodist Times has collected: "From the lists of brewery companies, excluding the public-house trust companies, the following number of clerical shareholders are taken: Church of England, 940; Roman Catholic, 104; Church of Scotland, 16; Wesleyan Methodist, 5; Congregationalist, 2; Baptist, 2; other denominations, 85."

Dr. Helen MacMurchy is doing good service to the State, says the Canadian Churchman, in urging the Government to undertake the care of the feeble-minded. It is a reproach to our civilization that our present system, or rather lack of system, should be continued. When these comparatively helpless people of either sex come before the courts they are sent from one unsuitable place to another for the simple reason that no proper provision is made for their care by those on whom the moral duty is cast. It is lamentable too to think that through marriage this deplorable condition is being constantly perpetuated. The time has arrived when this matter should be dealt with on a just and scientific basis.

The English Establishment, remarks the Lutheran Observer, is face to face with a problem that may help to make it desire disestablishment, if the high-church element maintains its present attitude toward marriage to a deceased wife's sister, which was legalized by parliament during the past year. A gentleman who contracted such a marriage went to communion with his wife in his own parish, and was refused admission to the sacrament. He at once brought suit in the court which has to do with ecclesiastical cases, and the verdict can scarcely be a matter of question. There seems to be doubt, however, as to the ability of the court to enforce its verdict, and to compel the admission of the plaintiff to the sacrament, and added irritation will be the only result. On the one side there will be resentment that the State should interfere, and a growing willingness to yield the benefits of the support that disestablishment gives for the freedom of disestablishment. On the other hand there will be the increased determination that a Church which will not obey the laws of the land and the orders of the court shall no longer be a pensioner of the Government.