

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment

It is stated that German statisticians place the Catholic population of the world at 320,000,000. This is considerably higher than former reports.

The Morning Star, of Boston, very pertinently remarks:—"B. Fay Mills is now 'taking a rest.' He is also giving some other folks 'a rest.'" Let us all hope that in his retirement Mr. Mills will "reverse himself and resume his judgment."

It is stated that the cost to the Dreyfus family of the proceedings in the case of Capt. Dreyfus amounted to over \$200,000. An enormous sum to have to spend to save an innocent man from the awful exile to which he was sentenced.

The Director of the Mint in Philadelphia, reports that the world's gold production in 1898 was 13,904,363 ounces, of the value of \$27,128,600. Of this the United States produced 3,118,398 ounces, Transvaal 3,841,975 ounces, and Australia 3,137,644 ounces.

In the city of Christiania, Norway, nearly twenty thousand votes were cast, recently, in favor of the prohibition of the liquor traffic. The vote was not quite large enough to win, but the feeling is moving strongly in the direction of prohibition, and may be expected to win soon.

A perpetual subscription is rather a novel idea, but one that will doubtless please publishers of periodicals. A man eighty years old, who has taken Harper's Magazine from the start, has paid seventy-five dollars to ensure his family's receiving the magazine as long as it is published.

The Protestant movement progresses in Austria. According to the report of the superior consistory of the Austrian Evangelical church, during the first six months of this year, some 3148 persons have passed over to Protestantism in Austria. In addition a large number have left Rome to join the old Catholics.

The nurses sent out by the Presbyterian Church in Canada to the Atlin district reached their destination on July 22 and have since been kept very busy. As the funds contributed for their work have been exhausted it becomes necessary to ask for a renewal of subscriptions. Contributions should be sent to Rev. Dr. Warden, Toronto.

Sir William Hunter, one of India's most observing statesmen and historians, stated that there are 60,000,000 non-caste people in India—all considered as outcasts—and that these millions would not long rest where they now are; they would become Christians, if the Church were ready to take them; if not, they would become Mohammedans.

In a recent interview in Chicago, Joaquin Miller, the poet, said: "To use intoxicants in Alaska is fatal. No one can use stimulants without serious results. Even coffee is not necessary to the habitual coffee drinker. Tea is the proper beverage there, and that is the popular drink. Whiskey is a deadly thing to the Indians, and they are perishing in Alaska very rapidly."

Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, the eminent London Divine, has a pungent way of putting things. He is said to have remarked in response to the hearty commendation of some man, "Yes, he may be a good man, but he does not remind me of Jesus Christ."

The members of the congregation of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church, New York, the pulpit of which was for many years filled by the late Dr. Hall, have discussed the matter of a successor to the late pastor, and unanimously favor the calling of the Rev. G. Campbell Morgan, of the New Court Congregational church, London.

The late Rev. S. H. Kellogg, D.D., whose recent tragic death in India is still fresh in the memory of our readers, was a distinguished graduate of Princeton. His son Edwin seems destined for a like brilliant career at the same historic seat of learning. He has just won a Scholarship of \$500 a year at Princeton University. The young man's many friends in Toronto will rejoice at his success.

The Canadian Temperance League opened their eleventh season of Sunday services on Nov. 5 in Massey Hall, Toronto. The special attraction for the opening meeting was Ira D. Sankey, and the hundreds who were unable to find a place in the hall give testimony as to his popularity. Although Mr. Sankey's singing was the chief attraction, several vigorous addresses were listened to with great interest.

The present century has been one of remarkable missionary activity. In the light of the figures brought before the recent Council at Washington, the cry, so often repeated, that missions are a failure ought nevermore to be heard. Here is the splendid story in briefest compass: "In the beginning of the century there were only 170 missionaries in all the world, with hardly 50,000 converts, and an annual expenditure of only \$250,000. Now there are 4901 mission stations, with 13,200 out-stations, 11,000 missionaries, and associated with them 35,000 native Christian assistants, 17,411 mission schools, 1,500,000 native Christians, and annually \$15,600,000 are spent in the work."

That excellent periodical, Queen's University Journal, contains a faithful portrait of Rev. Dr. Jordan, an account of whose recent installation appears in another column, as well as appreciative words of welcome. The Journal says: "We are pleased to extend to our new Professor, Dr. W. G. Jordan, whose installation takes place on the 1st of November, a most cordial welcome to our halls. Although he has been for some time known as a contributor to Canadian periodicals and Church papers, where his knowledge of modern languages and literature was easily seen, it was the Theological Alumni Conference which revealed his true gifts. At this important gathering his interpretation of the prophets was an inspiration, and all who heard his lectures felt that, excellent pastor and preacher though he was, his real place was in the University, where his intimate knowledge of Hebrew and wide acquaintance with the views of modern critics—English and German—would be of the utmost service. His ability to enter with sympathy into and disclose the mental workings of Old Testament heroes was at once recognized by the General Assembly in Hamilton, where he created a deep impression. Many were the congratulations which were there showered upon Queen's because of its genuine treasure-trove."

Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, Toronto, has begun, under the authority of the Presbyterian General Assembly, the publication of two new illustrated papers, "Jewels," for the little ones, and "The King's Own," for older scholars. The aim is to supply good Sunday reading, linked with a strong Canadian sentiment. The venture is justified by the success of the Presbyterian Sabbath School publications during the past year, and we wish it every success.

Prospective visitors and gold seekers in the Klondike region, says "Christian Work," may extract some comfort from the discovery made by the Harriman Alaska expedition that most of the glaciers which abound in that Territory are receding. The fact is an indication that average weather there is growing warmer. If it were growing colder glaciers would be advancing; while if it were about the same, one year with another, they would maintain the same general position, neither creeping nearer to the sea nor melting away from their terminal moraines. The rate of glacial recession is so slow, however, that fur overcoats and warm sleeping bags are likely to remain as a part of the necessary equipment of Alaskan travel for some years to come. Nothing, it may be added, is slower than the movement of a glacier, except the settlement of the Alaskan boundary dispute.

Hunger strikes and rebellions against a continuous diet of sour bread and black molasses are not uncommon in the annals of prison life, but it is something new to hear such a tale of woe as that which comes from a flock of jail birds in Scotland, their grievance being a lack of nutritious literature in the jail library, more especially of "Sartor Resartus," and the writings of Burns and Christopher North. That a Scotchman, even in durandee file, should be deprived of things so necessary to his existence, was truly the refinement of cruelty. It is gratifying to learn that the want was immediately supplied by a sympathizing public, and that the felons in this particular jail will not be restricted in the future to such meagre Saxon fare as Thackeray and Shakespeare, but will be able to dwell fondly on the thoughts of the "Cotter's Saturday Night," or the more exhilarating diversion of "Tam O'Shanter."

Rev. Dr. Francis R. Beattie, professor in the Louisville Theological Seminary, and one of the editors of the Christian Observer, made a thoughtful and practical address at the recent meeting of the Presbyterian Council at Washington City, on the subject of "Increasing the efficiency of the Alliance." A friend of the Council, and utterly unwilling to criticise the management of the meeting on the papers presented, he confessed to a feeling of disappointment such as that felt by very many others. He made three general suggestions: First that there should be wider publicity given to the programme, months before the meeting, that every delegate might know what subjects were to be discussed; second, that there should be more opportunity for discussion, with fewer long papers and more freedom; third, a more vigorous dealing with practical questions and living issues of the day. He suggests such questions as "the training of young men for the ministry," "methods of seminary training," and "the whole range of social and economic problems in their relation to the Church." He also believed that the questions of Biblical criticism should be boldly met and argued. "Conservative views have nothing to fear, and here is the place for their courageous defense."