

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

It is a striking fact that Queen's University has within 25 as many matriculants as Toronto University.

The Grip is epidemic throughout the United States. New York city alone reports more than 150,000 well-defined cases.

Special evangelistic services are now being held in London and in many large cities of England. John MacNeill takes part in the London services.

Queen Victoria traveled very little. She had never been out of Europe and had never been in Spain, Greece, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Austria or Russia.

After Victoria but one actually ruling Queen remains—Wilhelmina of Holland. Of seventy-four rulers on the earth twenty-two are Presidents, fifteen are kings, and six are Emperors.

A despatch from South Africa announces that martial law has again been proclaimed through the greater part of Cape Colony, and this will probably cause more anxiety than the actual situation justifies.

During Victoria's reign there have been twenty-two Cabinets formed, headed by nine different Prime Ministers, and of these all but two (Lords Rosebery and Salisbury) have preceded the Queen to the grave.

Dr. G. E. Morrison, the famous correspondent of the London Times, who is now in China, is only 38 years old. He is described as tall, muscular, of military bearing and full of nervous energy. Before going to China he spent several years in Australia.

About 1840 two shrewd Scotsmen were discussing the possibilities of the future. "I believe," said one, "in fifty years they'll have a line from Aberdeen to Huntly." "Mebbe," said the other, "but the hills and the water." "Oh, ay," said the other, "I forgot that."

The condition of the dowager Empress Frederick continues satisfactory. Lately she has not suffered any pain, but this does not imply improvement. Her Majesty's sorrow and personal loss owing to the death of the Queen has been borne with comparative fortitude.

Dr. Goldwin Smith says that at the time of Queen Victoria's coronation he ran behind her carriage from Eton to Windsor. On this the Toronto Star cynically remarks: "Even at his then early age we should have expected Dr. Smith's cold reason to have checked such a show of sentiment."

Halifax, says the Presbyterian Witness, has an unusually large number of untenanted houses a fact due in part to the rush to Sydney. When steel ships are constructed here there will not be untenanted houses or idle wharves. When—"a woful when!" as the poet says. But if our citizens go on as they have begun there is a probability that a ship-building enterprise will be started here. There is nowhere a more favorable locality.

The work of excavating the Roman remains at Silchester, in Hampshire (England), has been suspended for the present year. It is stated that the work during the past season has been productive of valuable results. A number of tessellated floors have been unearthed, while a magnificent section of mosaic pavement, with a figure representing a dolphin, in a remarkable state of preservation, and over one thousand pots and vessels, of varying sizes and shapes, have been brought to light.

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria is engaged in raising a Twentieth Century Fund of \$250,000. The Moderator of the year, Rev. Dr. Tait, of South Terra, Melbourne, having been released from his pastoral duties in order to plead the claims of the movement, Professor Iverach, Aberdeen, will take his place for four months.

It is said that the visit last week of the Emperor of Germany to the deathbed of his grandmother, Queen Victoria, will secure him a hold on the sympathies of the British people which no efforts of diplomacy could have won; indeed, it is a kindly and humane act on his part that is very highly appreciated the whole world over.

King Alexander, of Servia, has tried to have his life insured for \$2,000,000 in several companies, but one company to whom he applied for \$300,000 worth of insurance refused to write a policy on the ground of the great frequency of anarchist crimes, and this company had a \$600,000 payment to make on the assassination of King Humbert.

Never before did the civilized world hang so intensely upon news from a deathbed as in the last few days of Queen Victoria's illness, of which news of the inevitable end at last came on Tuesday. That illness was sufficiently prolonged to excite universal sympathy, yet it was mercifully shortened so as to prevent her own undue suffering, and the harrowing of the hearts of those who watched without hope.

One of the Berlin reviews publishes a calculation on the number of letters distributed annually throughout the world. It gives the total as twelve thousand millions. Of these, it says, 8,000 millions are English, 1,200 millions in German, 1,000 millions in French, 220 millions in Italian, 120 millions in Spanish, 100 millions in Dutch, 80 millions in Russian and 24 millions in Portuguese. The Anglo-Saxon is for the present very well in front.

"And what," asked the caller in his most ingratiating tones, "what did Santa Claus put in your stocking, my little girl?" For a moment the Boston child looked at him through her diminutive spectacles, then, in a voice of mingled pity and indignation, she said: "We no longer put credence in obsolete tradition—nor was it delicate of you to mention that article of feminine apparel." Gathering up her copy of Ibsen, she hurriedly left the room.

Dr. Gay, a well-known Boston physician and a member of the John Hopkins University scientific staff, claims to have discovered that the deadly malady of dysentery is a germ disease amenable to the anti-toxin which he and Dr. Flexner, a Paris physician, have succeeded in producing. Dr. Gay made a thorough study of dysentery in the Philippines two years ago, and has since been conducting a series of experiments with Dr. Flexner, which promise to result in one of the crowning triumphs of bacteriological knowledge of the nineteenth century. The announcement of the discovery has created intense interest among medical men in New York.

The London Times says:—When a drunkard has once become "habitual," we confess that we are not sanguine as to his prospects of reform, for it seems likely that his entire organism has undergone changes which must place great difficulties in the way of its return to a normal condition. But before he has become "habitual," he ought to be within the reach of treatment, and this should probably be medical as well as moral. There must be something inherently wrong in his construction, and it should be the business of science to discover what this something is, and by what means it can be corrected. In all probability, the knowledge would justify a commitment to a reformatory long before the distinction of three convictions had been attained.

It is a noticeable and pleasing fact that in London, England, and possibly in other towns and cities, there exists a Working Men's Lord's Day Rest Association. The working men, so called, are the very ones who are suffering most from the increasing disregard of the Sabbath, and they act wisely in combining to resist the encroachments on their day of rest, which, especially in times of pressure, have become so common.

The States-General, of Holland, has refused to confer upon Queen Wilhelmina's future husband the title of Prince Consort, as this would give him precedence over the Queen's mother, who was an able and popular ruler during Wilhelmina's minority. An allowance of \$80,000 a year was voted to the bridegroom, Duke Henry, by a large majority, though there was considerable opposition to this on the ground that Queen Wilhelmina is rich enough to support her husband herself.

Here is an extract from the Sun as edited by Dr. Parker: "To brew a barrel of beer, and take seven shillings revenue, giving the brewer the right thereby of freedom to put his beer on the market to get his seven shillings back, and the liberty of local option or some other anti-license Act to prevent the drink being sold, is a breach of contract, and in no sense an honest course to pursue. If the sale of an article is morally and physically wrong, the production is still worse—the sale is the effect, the production the cause."

The Canadian Baptist very properly deprecates the introduction of party politics into municipal elections. One contemporary remark: "Party government at best is by no means an unmixing good, and this enlargement of the field of party strife promises many serious evils. The only and the avowed purpose of this new departure is to keep the "machine" well oiled and in ready working order. Why should a man be chosen as mayor, reeve, or councillor, simply because he is a Conservative or a Liberal? What have his politics to do with the administration of local affairs? Why cannot a man be elected to local offices at least, simply on the ground of his own personal fitness?"

The New York Scottish-American says: "The expressions of sympathy here for the British people, and the Royal family in particular, which Queen Victoria's sickness called from all classes in this country, has formed a very gratifying feature of the last few days. The Press here has been quite unanimous in its solicitude and sympathy. Such sentiments have no doubt been shown throughout the whole world, but it is thought that they have been more general and more potent here than anywhere else outside of the British Empire. The Press here speaks kindly too of the great love shown by the British people for their Queen. As one contemporary says: "She is the only sovereign the vast majority of her people have ever known. She has for two generations been to them the head of the State, the head of the Church, the head of social life, and the chief exemplar of all which makes the name of Britain great."

On the eve of the larger federation of the Australian colonies, the five Presbyterian churches in Australasia have become one. Thus following the example given by Canada in 1875, each colony will have its own local Synod, but in addition there will be a Federal Assembly dealing with matters pertaining to the United Church. A twofold basis of union has been agreed upon. The first sets forth that the supreme standard in the United Church shall be the Word of God as contained in the Old and New Testaments, and the second sets forth that the subordinate standard shall be the Westminster Confession of Faith, which, however, is to be read in the light of a most important Declaratory Statement, by which the new church is brought into line with other Evangelical Churches to such an extent as to remove some of the leading points of division. That the twentieth century should thus have opened in Australia is a fact of no small significance which should be noted throughout the religious world.