

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

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Note and Comment.

Venice is trying to revive the picturesque ceremony of wedding the Adriatic, which has been discontinued since the last Doge was expelled in 1797. Plans are being made for a new "Bucentaur" on the model of the one used in the last ceremony.

A party of Swedish naturalists under the leadership of Gustave Kolthoff made a northern voyage of more than usual length last summer, for the purpose of studying the fauna in Arctic waters and lands. They were disappointed in not finding any more relics of André on Prince Charles Island.

It is said that the Princess Victoria, the only unmarried daughter of the King, is one of the most expert amateur book-binders in England, and spends much of her spare time in pursuing her hobby. She has a small library of books, all exquisitely bound by herself, and as an exhibitor she has won many prizes and much commendation under the pseudonym of "Miss Matthews."

A society to be called "The Church Law Society" has been inaugurated with Principal Story as its president. The general purposes of the society are stated to be to promote a better knowledge of the constitution, laws, and procedure of the Church of Scotland, and to advise in regard to the preservation of the property, rights, and privileges of the Church. Advisory, editorial, business, and lecture-committee have been elected.

The language contest has led to serious tumults in Prussian Poland. It is an axiom of the Polish clergy that the Virgin Mary does not understand German, and that prayer addressed to her in that language is of no effect. Polish children, therefore, refused to learn the religious lessons set them in the schools, for which the teachers punished them. On hearing this, says the Berlin correspondent of the "Chronicle," parents stormed the schools, dragged their children out, and flung the German religious text-books at the teachers' feet. The police had ultimately to interfere.

According to the rule sanctioned by centuries of Chinese observation, no document can have the authority of the Imperial Throne of China unless it bears a red spot placed there by the Sovereign. To the Grand Council the Tsung-li-Yamen and all other departments of State take their business, and the Grand Council in its turn considers all documents, and attaches to each a piece of red paper on which its own decision is written. Each morning at daybreak the Grand Council proceeds to the palace to submit the papers to the Sovereign, who, as each document is produced, signifies approval by making a small spot with a brush on the margin of the red paper. With the red spot upon it the paper is the most sacred thing in the world to a Chinaman; without it, it may be torn to shreds with impunity.

A daring voyage has been undertaken by two venturesome British Columbians. A master mariner and a newspaper man have arranged to make a tour of the world in an Indian war canoe. The craft is 40 ft. long and 4 ft. wide, contains a cabin large enough for both to sleep in, and is provisioned for six months. The voyagers were to start for Australia on May 29, and they expect to reach Sydney at the end of September. They estimate that they will reach England in about two years.

It is reported that the Rev. Dr. Charles Sheldon, of Topeka, Kansas, who wrote a book advising employers to treat their servants as equals, is having serious domestic troubles. His wife last week refused to allow the servant girl to dine with the family. The girl promptly gave up her place, and before leaving she reminded Mrs. Sheldon that her husband had recently solved the servant girl problem by declaring that domestics should have equal privileges with the family. Mrs. Sheldon told the girl that she was not responsible for her husband's opinions; he could write books, but she intended to rule the household. The pastor's dilemma is said to have caused great amusement.

Mr. Henry Broadhurst, English M. P., has published the story of his life, from stone-mason to a Government Minister, and he ends the volume with a description of Mr Gladstone's funeral. He says—Within the Abbey my place was on the north side of the grave. On my immediate right was the late Lord Chief Justice, and on my left Lord Justice Rigby. Behind sat the Lord Chancellor, and as the Duke of York retired from his post of pall-bearer he brushed against me. Then the Prince of Wales, to day the King of the mightiest Empire the world has known, advanced in reverence to Mrs. Gladstone, and before us all kissed the trembling hands of the widow of the greatest commoner of our land. Thus did the first gentleman of the nation acknowledge the equality of all humanity in the presence of the King of Kings.

Rev. John Spurgeon, father of the famous C. H. Spurgeon, remarks the Belfast Witness, is alive and well, and still usefully occupied at the great age of ninety years. Rev. Theodore Cuyler, of Brooklyn Presbyterian fame, is reported in excellent health at the age of seventy-nine. Dr. Farrar has been preaching on Sundays for forty-five years, besides innumerable week-day lectures and addresses. Dr. Parker, of the City Temple, has just preached, at an advanced age, the opening sermon of the great Evangelistic Campaign in London, and with undiminished fire. In the Irish Church there are Dr. Alexander, of Armagh, Dr. Killen of Belfast, and Mr. Buick of Ahoghill, all venerable and venerated. It is not that pulpit work itself is without tax and strain; rather it is that sober and regular living promotes longevity; "godliness hath the promise of the life that now is."

Rev. Dr. Morison, pastor of St. David's Church, St. John's, tells a rather amusing incident of the census taker's plan for deciding his nationality. On calling upon the reverend gentleman for his census, the enumerator asked him the usual question as to nationality, and the prompt reply was "I am a Canadian." This fairly staggered the official. He had evidently never heard of such a nationality, but, nothing daunted, he inquired what nationality Dr. Morison's father was. The answer was "Scotch." "Then you're Scotch," triumphantly answered the enumerator. "But my mother was English, and she surely counts as much as my father in settling so momentous a question." But the census taker was not to be moved. And so Dr. Morison is, officially at least, a Scotchman.

General Booth, says Mr. Stead in an article on the "General" in the *Young Man*, met Cecil Rhodes both in Africa and in London, and liked him well. Cecil Rhodes was very much taken with the General. He visited the Labour Colony at Hadleigh, and spent a day with the heads of the Army. The visit of inspection terminated with the inevitable prayer-meeting in which the General prayed earnestly, as is his wont, for the salvation of his distinguished visitor. Cecil Rhodes's demeanour was noted at the time as being singularly reverent and sympathetic, in marked contradistinction to that of others of the party. He told me afterwards: "The General's all right. I quite agree with him, only with the difference of one word. Where he says salvation I say empire. Otherwise we are quite in accord."

An extraordinary dispute has arisen between Rev. Dr. Cameron Lees, minister of St. Giles's Cathedral, Edinburgh, and Principal Story, of Glasgow University, owing to remarks made by Dr. Story in the General Assembly. Principal Story referred to Dr. Cameron Lee's speech at the deputation which went to the Episcopal bishops in furtherance of a day of prayer for Christian unity, in which he had expressed thankfulness in the words of a Scotsman speaking in 1610, of certain events which took place at that time. The Principal went on to say that he did not know if Dr. Cameron Lees knew what the history of the Church of Scotland was in 1610, and that Dr. Cameron Lees "rather preferred such meetings to the floor of this house." Dr. Cameron Lees replied in a letter to "The Scotsman," by characterizing the latter remark as a sneer, and stating that during his forty-five years' ministry he had always attended the General Assembly when sent there by his Presbytery, except on two occasions—once when prevented by an unexpected call of duty, and once by family bereavement. He explains that he is not this year a member of Assembly, but was present when the remarks were made. Dr. Cameron Lees thus concludes—"A man with his hands tied can always be made an easy victim by any cur that de-
sires to flesh his teeth."