

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

A remarkable assembly at Bombay was recently convened when 3,000 Hindus, all of whom were workmen, met to memorialize the government on behalf of free primary education.

A tablet which passed through the fire unharmed, has been found on the Bible House in San Francisco, bearing the inscription, "The Word of the Lord endureth forever."

In Johannesburg, South Africa, the agents of the Bible Society were last year asked to supply fifty-three different translations of the Scriptures. In only one case, that of an Icelandic, did they fail to produce the desired translation.

The King of Siam has issued decrees for the suppression of the powerful gambling system his kingdom. He has also abolished slavery, established five hospitals and a royal school of medicine, placing all the hospitals but one in the charge of medical missionaries.

The American Bible Society has received permission from President Roosevelt to translate into Bohemian, Polish, Italian and several other languages his address on the Bible delivered before the Long Island Bible Society in 1901. It has already been printed in Japanese, Tagalog, Spanish and Arabic.

A recent report of the Charities Organization in New York, states that 130,000 women are employed in 39,000 factories in that city, many of them working seventy-five hours per week, despite the fact that the legal limit is sixty hours. Room there for humane and philanthropic effort.

A New York paper publishes a statement, which it avers to be true, that Mrs. Eddy is dying of cancer and has a Boston cancer specialist come regularly to try allay her sufferings; that she has not left her house in three years; that she is impersonated in her daily drives in the closed carriage by a younger woman. The story has created something like a sensation in Christian Science circles.

The *Lancet* (London), in reviewing a pamphlet, "Women as Barmides," says: "We may well ask ourselves whether it is consistent with a due regard to the national welfare to allow the daughters of the empire to be offered up as sacrifices to the Moloch of the drink traffic, or, as too often happens, to be employed as decoys for the purpose of adding to the intemperance by which the country is weakened and disgraced."

J. Pierpont Morgan has secured the original Cluny Bible, in illuminated text, on parchment, the work of the Cluny monks, in France, and more than 200 years old. With it he also has obtained an illuminated copy of the original order of arrest of John Bunyan, on a charge of heresy. The Bible was considered one of the finest works of art in France.

Recently published returns show that there is a decrease in drinking in Ireland. Ten per cent less in beer is consumed. In whisky one million gallons less as compared with ten years ago. Nevertheless, the consumption of intoxicants in Ireland is twice that in the United States, although the people of that country are much better able to afford it. Irish drinking costs much more than all the financial burdens the Nationalists prate about, says the *Belfast Witness*.

A member of the British Cabinet, Mr. Lloyd George, in a recent speech in Wales, said there are tens of thousands of persons in the United Kingdom, lacking the bare necessities of life, a large percentage of this poverty being due to drink and gambling. He explained that the Government means to wrestle with the drink problem in earnest; it will be a great struggle and will need all the aid possible from organizations and individuals.

The modern Sunday-school idea has spread wonderfully in the little more than a century since it became a reorganized part of the church's work. The Chief Secretary of the World's Fourth Sunday-school Convention furnishes in his report the following figures: Total of 260,905 Sunday-schools, 2,414,757 teachers and 23,442,998 scholars in the world; and in the United States, 139,817 schools, 1,419,807 teachers and 11,493,591 scholars. England and Wales rank next in numbers, but have little more than half as many. The lowest on the list of countries having schools is Greece with four schools, seven teachers and 180 scholars.

According to a recently published report, the coal companies of Western Pennsylvania have decided that the saloons in the bituminous districts must close. They some time ago announced that they intended to crush out the saloons in the bituminous districts under their control, and have already begun operations. The companies declare that licenses do irreparable damage to their work and business in that when the miners receive their pay the hauling of large quantities of intoxicants from house to house by wholesale dealers causes the miners to become drunken and remain idle for long periods of time. Every dollar spent in the saloon diverted the channels of legitimate trade and tends to produce idleness and vagrancy, which are hindrances to every feature of business activity and are, and bring, measureless burdens upon the people. The report quoted says: "Not a doubt exists but that the action of the companies will make a thorough prohibition district of the scene of their operations."

Considerable excitement has been created in Austria, especially among Roman Catholics, by the publication of Count Heinrich Condenshove's recent volume upon the "Los von Rom" movement. The count was born and died a Catholic, but his work is a tremendous arraignment of the ambitions of the Roman Court and the incapacity of its clergy. In his homeland he says he could always tell a protestant village by its cleanliness and prosperity, a Catholic one by its filth and pauperism. He could pick out the Protestant regiments among the Bohemian troops by their discipline and soldierly bearing, the Catholics by their lack of "esprit de corps" and their inattention to duty. In the same way, he declares, every Catholic nation is to-day in a state of decadence, while every Protestant nation is reckoned among the world Powers whose strength and wisdom control the destinies of the race. The great names of European literature are none of them Catholic; the famous names of modern science are none of them Catholic. He mourned the movement which had been called "Los von Rom," but he did not wonder at it; because he said, the ambition and greed and tyranny of the bishops and clergy had alienated all who were in sympathy with the enlargement of knowledge or the spread of free institutions.

Presbyterian Witness: The hand of the All-wise Lord is ever guiding all things. We may with the fullest confidence and loving gratitude recognize His planning and performing. The longer and more carefully we look into those things the brighter the light that shall come to us from the face of our Father.

Western Christian Advocate: It is simply impossible that any man should fail when he is wholly given over to God. When St. Paul was arrested and thrown into prison it looked like that was the end of him; but did you ever notice how many of his grand epistles were written from within prison walls, and did it ever occur to you how much poorer the world would have been without the epistles?

The Maritime Baptist: Let the Gospel be preached with all the emphasis of conviction and faith, so that men shall understand and feel and rejoice in the assurance that God has not called them to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. It is such a positive, vital, triumphant Gospel that is needed by saint and by sinner. It is such a Gospel that the great Christian preachers have ever proclaimed a word of power and a message of salvation to sinful men.

The annual assembly of the delegates of the Samoan churches in connection with the London Missionary Society was held at Malua, Samoa. There was an attendance of 324 ordained pastors and native missionaries and 257 lay members, and the meetings were of a most enthusiastic and hopeful character. Sixteen young men who had successfully passed through their probation were ordained to the native ministry. The mission work has been very successful in this portion of the South Seas.

Rev. Alfred Wasson, writing from Korea of its Methodist missions, says: "The Korean Church is filled with the spirit of self-sacrifice. They build their own country churches, and each circuit supports in whole or in part a native helper, who gives his time to extending the kingdom among his heathen neighbors. Many of the poorer Christians obtain money for supporting the preacher by taking out a handful from their regular allowance of rice each day and selling it. Every convert is a missionary."

The climax of John R. Mott's tour in South Africa was the student missionary conference at Cape Town, attained by 500 delegates representing seventy-one Dutch and British colleges and schools. The first of the kind ever held, it had a spiritual quality similar to that of the great gathering at Nashville, Tenn., last March. The conference brought closer together the Christian forces, which since the outbreak of the Boer war, seven years ago, had not met in any fraternal Christian assemblage.

The Lutheran Observer thinks there is something almost uncanny in the way in which some of the recent archaeological discoveries take those who make the finds, and through them the world at large, back into the remote centuries before the Christian era. In addition to the many interesting things recently reported, Prof. James H. Breasted, in charge of the University of Chicago's explorations along the Nile, states that in the vast temple of Abu Simbel, in Numidia, he has found an illustrated account of the wedding of Rameses II, the Pharaoh of the Oppression. He has taken photographs of the reliefs and hieroglyphics, and before long this world will be as familiar with the details of Rameses' wedding as with his features—for now every school-boy knows the photograph of the great old king.