

Dominion Presbyterian

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NOTE AND COMMENT

Queen Alexandra is quoted as holding that women who try to be like men, instead of seeking to do those things which women can excel in, are mistaking their vocation. On which the Montreal Gazette observes: "The Queen, besides being a gracious woman, is evidently a woman of observing faculty and good sense."

A prospector who has just returned to Edmonton from the Peace Country tells of its amazing wealth. He saw not only gold in the creeks in paying quantities but tons of rich hard coal in the ravines, huge deposits of rich black asphaltum and indications of petroleum. The soil is wonderfully rich and the climate much warmer in winter than that of districts one or two hundred miles farther South.

In one respect the situation in the Asiatic provinces of the Turkish Empire is much improved. In the seaport towns, which are now under the protection of the guns of European warships, and in other cities which have been reached by Turkish troops obedient to the new government at Constantinople, the actual slaughter has ceased. In other respects the situation is still desperate, owing to lack of food and medical supplies.

The Presbyterian (North) Board of Foreign Missions warns the Churches of its denomination against contributing to a Persian who is in the United States soliciting money for "independent" mission work in Persia. It is strange how readily pastors and congregations are led to take up with voluble pretenses who come around pleading for aid for special causes. Readers of the Dominion Presbyterian should be on their guard.

It has often been said, in referring to the Chinese students in Tokyo, that they come from the best classes of the Empire, but it is possible to say now that some of the students who are most interested in Christianity are sons of high officials or wealthy merchants and clergy. Recently eight of these men have been baptized. Larger numbers are enrolled in the Bible classes than ever before: on one Sunday in February there were 125 men present at two evangelistic Bible classes.

The new government in Constantinople is administering what it calls a "salutary lesson" to the leaders of the revolt of April 13. Three of them were hanged on the Galata Bridge, five in front of the House of Parliament, and five in front of the War Office. Enver Bey, the Young Turk leader, is reported to have said that there would be a hundred such executions before they had finished. It is reported that a number of documents have been discovered in the palace which prove the complicity of Abdul Hamid in the late military massacre.

Here are two or three striking sentences from Gipsy Smith's addresses in Toronto:—

"If you are praying for a revival, draw a chalk ring around yourself, and pray: 'Lord, begin in this ring!'"

"The face is an index to the heart. It's no wonder that some ministers can't preach with the faces they see in front of them. Get the shine on! Get the joy of the Lord on your face!"

"The prayers that you offer on your knees you will have to live while you are on your feet. The thing that broke the heart of the Son of God when He was on earth was the lack of sympathy."

The United Presbyterian indignantly exclaims:—It is a pity—is it not a shame!—that the civilized Christian world will continue to tolerate a government which permits, if it does not instigate, a portion of its citizenship to massacre, and worse than massacre, scores of thousands of their fellow citizens, who are superior to them in intelligence, thrift, and morals. It may be that the overthrow of the diabolical Abdul Hamid will mark the end of the practice of atrocity, murder, and pillage which has so long blackened the history of Turkey, but if not may you speed the day when some force shall arise which will smite the abomination and grind it to powder.

The Student Volunteer Movement of North America has compiled a list of three hundred and seventy-nine volunteers whose names were reported to its office as having reached the mission fields during the year 1908. They are connected with forty-seven missionary agencies. By countries they are distributed as follows:—Africa, thirty-eight; China, one hundred and twenty-four; India and Burma, fifty-eight; Japan, thirty-three; Korea, twenty-nine; South America, nineteen; Turkey, twelve; Alaska, six; Philippines and West Indies, twenty-seven; Mexico, twelve; other countries, 21. The total number of volunteers who are known to have sailed since the movement was started is three thousand eight hundred and sixty-one.

The Congregationalist reports a remarkable experience of Mr. John R. Mott, the well known leader in Y.M.C.A. work in Northern Europe. He was received with marked cordiality everywhere. At Christiania, Norway, a professor of jurisprudence invited prominent athletes and social leaders to meet Mr. Mott at his home. At Stockholm, Upsala, Lund, Copenhagen, and Hel-singfors, he was greeted by student audiences that crowded large auditoriums. He sought to strengthen already existing Bible classes and Christian associations. The Dutch students assembled at Utrecht heard Mr. Mott twice a day for several days. The teaching of the young men of the universities with such a message of consecration and service as Mr. Mott has to deliver is of great promise for good.

To those who have witnessed the amazing growth of the British Empire within the last quarter of a century, perhaps the most surprising fact related to it is, the determined hostility to this beneficent expansion on the part of some few men of British birth. It is hard, nay to many impossible, to reconcile this attitude with the ordinary standard of national self-respect. What reasonable objection can there possibly be to replacing paganism and barbarism with all their attendant crudities and cruelties with the enlightenment, civilization, and justice of British rule; or to bringing vast areas of wild land under cultivation, developing agriculture, extending commerce, and imparting useful knowledge. Surely these good people must realize that the good of mankind is involved in the progress of civilization, the reclamation of wild land, the establishment of law and order, the inculcation of habits of thrift and industry, the promotion of the gentle arts of peace, and the spread of individual and national prosperity, to say nothing of the benign and sanctifying sway of the Christian religion.

According to a London dispatch the figures of the transatlantic passenger trade of 1908 show an extraordinary situation which explains the terrible losses in the shipping trade. The number of passengers going to America in 1908 was 635,000, which was 1,048,000 less than in the previous year. The number leaving America was 859,000, or 89,000 more than in 1907. The loss to the steamship companies in gross receipts was \$34,000,000.

In the last issue of the Catholic Register (Toronto) we find the following item: "Adam Aikens, aged 25, abjured Presbyterianism at Valcartier, P.Q., on the 24th, and was baptized in the Catholic Church. 'My prayers now have more sense than ever before' he assured his friends after his conversion." On the other hand we are told, says the Presbyterian Witness, that twelve converted Roman Catholics were received into the communion of the Presbyterian Church on a recent Sunday at Pointe aux Trembles. Let there be freedom of conscience on one side and the other. To be mere machines in subjection to any body of men is a sin against the authority of Him who alone is Lord of the Conscience.

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has just held its fifty-sixth annual conference. It was organized by the widow of the original Joseph Smith and others who would not recognize Brigham Young. They are not polygamous, but believe all the absurdities of the Book of Mormon and all the revelations that Joseph Smith the original put forth. They believe in revelations, and on April 21 a revelation through Joseph Smith was given to the delegates. It released from the presidency one of the incumbents, and it released two apostles. The presidency of the church is now composed of Joseph Smith, his son, Frederick W. Smith, and his nephew, Albert A. Smith. These are direct descendants from "Joe Smith," the arch deceiver. The reorganized Church of Jesus Christ, like the Brigham Young Church, is a missionary church, and at this session representatives from New Zealand, England, Honolulu, Canada, Samoa, and Australia were in attendance.

A Jewish rabbi protests against those reformed Jews who wish the people of their race to intermarry with Christians. Addressing a great congregation on Sunday in New York he said that "the French, the English, and the Americans have their distinct governments and soils and national homes, while the Jewish race is a scattered community, without soil, government, state, or law. The Hebrew race has nothing to bind it together, and preserve it, except its religion, which is in turn dependent upon its refusal to intermarry. * * The Jew is not exceptional in wishing to remain a Jew. The Roman Catholic Church condemns intermarriage with Protestants, and, when such marriages occur, insists on the offspring being baptized in the Catholic Church. * * If a non-Jew will accept Judaism I will gladly marry him to a Jewess. If, on the other hand, a race-Jew has no religion, I am glad to see him marry a Christian. * * But the earnest Jew, and, indeed, the earnest Christian, will not desire to intermarry. They will understand that marriage is founded on essential harmony, and that religious discord or religious indifference is a poor birthright to bequeath to one's children."