

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

The Belfast Witness hints that the Presbyterian Church of England is jealous of the fact that so many of its vacant charges are filled up by Irish and Scottish candidates. "We on our side," says the Witness, "are at times depressed to see so many of our most promising young men called to English and Scotch pastorates. But this is a free country; churches are free to select whom they please, and the ministers are free to accept calls (subject, of course, to the Episcopal control of the Presbytery)." Ulster Presbyterianism is a very solid and aggressive factor in the religious life of the United Kingdom. Scottish-Irish Presbyterianism is also a very important factor in the religious life of Canada, notably in Nova Scotia.

That was an important gathering which met recently in Bremen, Germany, the International Anti-Alcohol Congress. Fourteen hundred delegates were in attendance, scientists and philanthropists. Fifteen of the nations of the world were represented. Unequivocal testimony against alcohol was given, in the name of cold science. An eminent authority on brain and nerve diseases, Dr. Forel, declared that neither science nor experience justified calling alcohol a food. Professor Berens said that "Alcohol, by dulling the spiritual aspirations essential to great work, is an enemy of the highest attainment."

Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop, the well-known traveler and writer, said recently, in reply to a question whether Chinese made good Christians: "The very best. They stand before you as men, and when they have accepted the Christian faith they will endure any torture rather than renounce it. If a man is converted, he will not rest content until he has converted others." The faithfulness and constancy of the Chinese converts under fierce persecution has demonstrated that they are by no means "rice Christians," as has often been charged against by the opponents of missions.

The news comes from Germany of an announcement made by Berlin Medical Society of a new remedy for consumption, called Sanosin. The announcement has attracted much attention in medical circles in Europe. In a paper read before the society Dr. Danelius showed—or, at least, claimed to show that a number of patients, mostly working-men, had been cured of consumption, and said they were treated without interference with their work. The use of Sanosin prevents coughing, fever and night sweats, and results in the patient gaining in weight. Even in severe cases of consumption the progress of the disease has been arrested. The Philadelphia Ledger says the remedy was discovered by Dr. Robert Schneider.

There are 300,000 Mormons, chiefly in the United States, who keep 1400 missionaries in the field, constantly recruiting their ranks and making converts from among the people in all the countries and cities of the world. Dr. Smith, in the Herald and Presbyterian, urges that if the whole force of the

Protestant Church of the United States would put a missionary body of 1400 into Mormondom, it could capture that region and obliterate Mormonism. He says: "It would, at least, be well to try. Our nation can not afford to permit this menace to good citizenship and pure morals to increase its numbers, its boundaries and its power, and this it is doing and will do, more and more, unless opposed more strenuously than we have been doing."

A new society has been formed in England for the suppression of profanity, known as the "National Association for the Suppression of Bad Language." Referring to this fact the Canadian Baptist says: "As indicated by its name the object of the organization is most praiseworthy in every way, but as indicating a condition of morals and manners in even good society, its necessity is deplorable. Profanity and bad language are the expression of people of low origin and coarse and vulgar minds, and no matter what such persons may now appear or pretend to be these signs are unfailing as to the gutter from which they came and where they still belong. Both of these vile habits prevail to some extent in Canada, but in towns and cities they are almost invariably associated with drink, and the abandonment of the drink habit generally reforms the blasphemer and the low of speech." Such an association is badly needed in this country, as pointed out by the DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN some months ago. Who will take the lead?

There is something significant and wonderful in the attention which is being given by the religious press of two continents to the steady increase everywhere in the circulation of the Word of God. The Herald and Presbyterian calls attention to the fact that a century ago the world had not a single Bible Society while now there are seventy-three that are well known, while many large publishing houses make the issuing of the Scriptures their main, or sole, business. The American Bible Society is eighty-seven years old, and it has issued over seventy-two million copies of the Bible or Testament in nearly one hundred different languages. The British and Foreign Bible Society, the largest of all such organizations in the world, has printed probably two hundred millions of copies in about three hundred languages and dialects. These two Societies, as also many others, are engaged in the work as a purely philanthropic or missionary enterprise, furnishing the Word at bare cost for sale and gratuitous distribution. The paper quoted well says: "The Bible is never going out of fashion. That is, it is never going to be driven out of the world, and it is the source of light and comfort and salvation to those who welcome it as God's Word and believe its precious truths. Infidelity may discard it, Romanism may bind and burn it, the destructive critics may assail and reject it, but it holds on its way, the power of God and the wisdom of God unto all who believe."

An investigation into the causes of the fatal railway accident at Windsor Junction, near Halifax, Nova Scotia, has, it is said,

brought out the fact that Engineer Copeland, of the freight train that plunged into the regular express, was asleep in the cab of his engine as the result of a spree the night before, and that the fireman and brakeman were also under the influence of liquor. Copeland is to be prosecuted. It is possible that others of the fearful accidents which have occurred on Canadian railways during the past year have been partly or wholly due to the use of intoxicating liquors. The management of our great railways cannot too soon settle down to the fact that, no matter how good the road bed and train equipment, railway travelling will not be safe if drinking men are tolerated in the management and running of trains. Referring to what is taking place on American roads the Christian Intelligencer says: "When the numbers who daily ride upon the railways of the land are considered, and the high rate of speed maintained with its attendant risks is taken into account, it becomes a matter of prime importance that those on whom the safety of the passengers depend should be men of the highest character, in devotion to duty and of strictly temperate habits. It is gratifying to know that this is recognized alike by railroad managers and the men themselves. All railroads require of their employees abstinence from intoxicants and more and more strictly are the habits of the men inquired into and total abstinence enforced. This is most effective in promoting the cause of temperance."

The Michigan Presbyterian claims that Japan has a harmonious educational system built up from the beginning on purely scientific principles, and largely devoid of the patch-work inconsistencies which characterize the systems prevalent in European countries and even in the United States. Our contemporary says: "Bright scholarly young men from Japan went to England, Germany, France and the United States in search of the best educational methods, and then upon the basis of experience and observation, proceeded to plan a method of study upon original lines true to nature. Perhaps no other nation but Japan was capable of such a thing. No other nation has the same openness of vision and docility of temper. No other nation could so have combined the analytical mind with the freedom from old tradition and prejudice. The nations of Europe are too conservative to make such radical departures. Our own nation is too supremely satisfied that everything American must be the best in the world, simply because it is American. Japan, with a marvelous gift of imitation, equal to that possessed by China, has in addition a fertility of resource and originality that seems actually Grecian in its ideality. The Japanese system of education has in it the best of the systems of Europe and American, but all of them improved upon." Perhaps, before very long Canada and the United States may be glad to get pointers from Japan in other things besides education. And yet we have people in these two countries who regard the Japanese as an inferior race and wish to exclude them as well as the Chinese. That would be strange treatment for Canada at least to mete out to Great Britain's powerful ally in the far east.