

Dominion Presbyterian

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NOTE AND COMMENT

The revised Japanese hymnal, prepared by a Presbyterian missionary, has now reached a circulation of 100,000 copies. It is the most popular book in Japan.

Through the efforts of the Young Men's Christian Association in the colleges 50,000 students are now enrolled in Bible classes for the systematic study of the Word of God.

The Balkan situation in its international aspect remains unchanged. The great European Powers are still debating. Turkey and Bulgaria have agreed to suspend further mobilization of troops. Guerrilla warfare has broken out in Bosnia and the Herzegovina against Austria.

The statistics of the Suez Canal traffic for 1907 show that out of a total of 4,267 ships passing through the canal, aggregate tonnage 14,728,434, the American flag was flown by only nine ships, with a tonnage of 12,557. The top liners were the British (2,651 ships), German (580), French (239), Dutch (123), Austrian (129).

Dr. Dixon, of Chicago, says: "The men who have been blessed of God in winning souls to Christ have been, without exception, believers in the inspiration and infallibility of the Word of God." This is true, and not surprising. The Bible is the sword of the Spirit. How can any man expect to use it effectively who begins by discrediting it?

Another important literary find is reported from Alexandria, in Egypt, which tends to confirm historical statements contained in the Old Testament. Prof. Brugsch discovered a report of hieroglyphics concerning the seven fat and lean years, predicted by Joseph and recorded in Gen. 41: 25. It is said that the agreement of the two reports even to the very years is complete.

Arising out of the recent incident in the British House of Commons, the Speaker has announced a limitation of privileges hitherto extended to lady visitors. He said: "I have taken upon myself to issue an order that no ladies are to be allowed to pass the doorkeepers. I have been reluctantly compelled to do so in order to maintain the dignity of the House."

Mr. Victor Grayson, the Socialist M. P., has been ordered to "withdraw" from the British House of Commons. Later, amid scenes of great excitement, he was "named" and suspended for disobeying the orders of the Chair. This means that under the Standing Orders he will not be permitted even to enter Palace Yard again for the remainder of the session, unless Parliament rescinds its decision.

It is sometimes charged, and as we think most unfairly, that the "call" with a larger stipend always secures prompt attention; not always, by any means! Here is a case where a man gives up a position with \$10,000 to enter the ministry at perhaps less than a third of the salary. An exchange says: Mr. Glunt, superintendent of one of Mr. Carnegie's steel mills at Homestead, at a salary of \$10,000 a year, has resigned that position in order to enter the Presbyterian ministry, and is about to take a course of training at the Western Theological Seminary. He is forty years of age, and has been employed in the steel mills since he was seventeen.

I believe that in the centuries which are to come it will be the greatest pride and the highest renown of England that from her loins have sprung 100,000,000—it may be 200,000,000—men who dwell and prosper on that continent which the old Genoese gave to Europe.—John Bright in 1865.

The Foreign Missions Committee of the English Presbyterian Church is bringing the serious nature of its financial position under the notice of the Presbyteries of the Church, by intimating to them that, owing to decrease of income and the pledge recently given that no further deficits would be incurred, it will be necessary to cut down by \$5,000 the appropriations made to the different centres on the field this year, and probably \$10,000 next year.

Dr. W. J. Dawson has been invited by St. George's Episcopal church, New York city, the scope of Dr. Rainsford's labors, to conduct special services from November 29 to December 31. This is the first time that Dr. Dawson has been invited to hold a meeting in an Episcopal church and it is probable that the way was opened through the adoption last year by the General Convention of the Canon which permits ministers of other denominations to fill Episcopal pulpits.

Zionism promises to benefit materially by Turkey's political liberation. The Hebrews, under the regime of the Ottoman sultans, who have been forbidden to buy land in Palestine, are now buying openly, and it is stated that a Jewish syndicate is now negotiating for a large part of the Sultan's private domain now in the market, comprising the whole length of the Jordan Valley from Tiberias to the Dead Sea. There is little doubt that the Jews will soon repossess the site of Ancient Jericho, which was the first fruit of the Israelitish conquest of Canaan. The greater part of Jerusalem, outside the walls, already belongs to Jewish capitalists.

The understanding between the powers thus far reached in the Eastern question is understood to be: A change in the treaty of Berlin to recognize the independence of Bulgaria; the powers will merely "take note" of the annexation of Bosnia to Austria, but recognize the annexation of Crete to Greece, and determine the financial obligations of Crete to Turkey; and, perhaps, of Bulgaria to Turkey; the restrictions as to Montenegro's rights of sovereignty will be swept away, thus freeing her from the control of Austria under which she was placed by the Berlin treaty. Russia desires the opening of the Dardanelles, and Turkey wonders what she is going to get in the way of compensation.

The Christian Science Publishing Society has announced the establishment at Boston of a new daily paper to be known as the Christian Science Monitor. The announcement is as follows: "The current of human thought is setting in the direction of that which alone is real—the good that men do, not the evil. It will be the mission of the Monitor to publish the real news of the world in a clean, wholesome manner, devoid of all the sensational methods employed by so many newspapers. There will be no exploitation or illustration of vice and crime, but the aim of the editors will be to issue a paper which will be welcomed at every home of purity and refinement and cherished ideals."

Every attempt to reduce the seventeen Independent Lutheran denominations of the United States to a less number appears foredoomed by German pertinacity to utter failure, says The Interior. A series of conferences on the question of general Lutheran union were arranged a few years ago, at which representatives of most of these denominations came together. But the "Missourians" soon made the gatherings ridiculous by refusing to join with the rest even in a service of prayer and song until the others had acknowledged that the hard-and-fast views of Missouri Synod on predestination were the truth, all the truth and the only truth. The impossibility of any arrangement with such extremists was recognized, and these general conferences were abandoned.

General Kuropatkin, in the instalment of his suppressed history of the Russo-Japanese war published in the October McClure's, makes some remarkable statements of the general unpreparedness and inefficiency of the Russian army and of the corresponding preparedness and devotion of the Japanese. Of the latter he says that "in some cases Japanese mothers even killed themselves when their sons, on account of weakness or ill health, were denied admission to the army." "Many officers and soldiers," he adds, "before going to the front, had funeral ceremonies performed over their bodies, in order to show that they intended to die for their native land." He says it was the moral superiority of the Japanese over the Russians that gave them the victory.

"The Congregationalist" remarks that biographical studies should be exceptionally popular this coming year in view of the number and character of the men whose birthdays are to be publicly noted. John Milton was born 300 years ago, Dec. 9. Then there are drawing near the centennials of Gladstone, Abraham Lincoln, Charles Darwin and of Mendeleevich and Chopin. "In religious circles the four hundredth anniversary of John Calvin will be widely recognized, and other anniversaries besides those named, which will appeal to the public, will be the Tennyson and Holmes centennials. There ought to be a good deal of homiletical material arising from the fresh study of these great personalities, and any individual will be profited whose course of reading the coming year takes due account of them.

The plans adopted by the Japanese government for the colonization of Korea are peculiar, though they have some remote resemblance to the old English plan of operating by companies like the old East India Company or the newer British South Africa Company. The difference, however, is great, for though vast powers are conferred upon the new Oriental Colonization Company it is not itself a political government. Its business is varied, and includes agriculture, buying, selling, leasing and renting land for colonization; constructing, buying, selling and renting buildings for colonization; assembling and distributing settlers; both Koreans and Japanese; supplying machinery, implements and other things needed for the same purpose, and lending money to the settlers, besides fisheries and "all other" kinds of business. "Under this last clause 'all other,'" says the Japan Economic and Financial Monthly, "the company transact commerce, transportation, monetary circulation, mining, manufacturing and many other kinds of business."