

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

If ever Dr. Milligan and Rev. Mr. Ker, of St. Catharines, should bump together on the higher criticism question the sparks would fly, wouldn't they?

By a vote of 17 to 7, the Official Board of the Dominion Methodist Church, Ottawa, has asked Dr. Rose, their pastor, to wear a professor's or teacher's gown in the pulpit. The Ladies' Aid Society of the church is supplying the gown. The opposition is not likely to prove fractious.

Principal Caven, in his prohibition address at Walmer Road Baptist church on Sunday, declared that the defeat of the Liquor Act on Dec. 4 would be the most disastrous blow that the temperance cause of this province could conceivably suffer.

The Rev. Dr. Cameron Lees was on the 6th inst. presented with a purse of 450 sovereigns, a silver salver, and an autograph album, on the occasion of his having attained the semi-jubilee of his pastorate at St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh. He also received an address from present and former assistants at St. Giles.

Rev. Thos. Voaden, a Methodist minister of Woodstock has written to the Hamilton Conference withdrawing from the Methodist Church. He writes that he has become a Dowieite, and that his sympathy with Dowie's work is incompatible with loyalty to the Methodist Church, and that his address for the next few months will be Zion City, Lake Co., Illinois.

It is to be noted that a number of prominent men of the country are taking up the question of the rights of the non-union man. Dr. Hillis, of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, has been investigating the coal strike in the mines. He says that union men are coming to control the politicians, and sounds a note of warning against the danger of labor-union tyranny.

Baffin Land has just been explored under the direction of the Geological Survey of Canada. It appears to be the third largest island in the world, having an area of 300,000 square miles, and exceeded in extent only by Australia and Greenland. It has a wonderful system of inland waters, has enormous glaciers, and twelve harbors roomy enough for large vessels. It may be considered a valuable possession some day.

At the recent election in Japan a clear majority for the Constitutionalists, Marquis Ito's party, has been returned. Whether that means a retirement of the present cabinet and an early return to power of the marquis himself, it were idle to prophesy, says the Boston Congregationalist, but many predict such a result. Ex foreign Minister Kato is one of the ablest men elected. Notwithstanding his expressed wish to retire from political life, Hon. K. Kataska, the new president of the Doshisha, was enthusiastically reelected, probably because of his sterling character and the brave stand he has taken against bribery, gambling, and other

immoralities. Mr. T. Yokoi, ex-president of the Doshisha, was defeated by a narrow margin. The number of Christian sympathizers will be larger than in any previous parliament.

The Coronation Durbar to be held at Delhi on Jan. 1st is to be a gorgeous affair. No fewer than 40,000 tents will be required, and a system of light railways will link the various camps which will almost surround the city of Delhi. One Indian prince is paying £35,000 for the use of a big mansion which he is renting for the occasion. Shopkeepers are asking from £150 to £200 for a single room. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught will sail for India in December.

The various agents of the Canadian Fire Underwriter's association have been advised of an increase in the rates on church property in rural districts and a decrease on school property. It is pointed out that during the past ten years the losses on churches have been very heavy, statistics in this regard showing that an increase in the assurance tariff was necessary. By the same means it was ascertained that a lowering of school rates was possible.

The United Presbyterian makes the following sad statement: "The missionaries in Eastern Kumaon, in the Himalaya Mountains, are spared many hardships endured by the workers in other parts of India. Not the least of these is the absence of unchristian European influence. Ninety miles from the railway, fifty miles from the nearest European settlement, and thirty from any other white faces, the teaching is not counteracted by the evil practices of some of those professing the name of Christ."

A Pekin correspondent of the North China Herald says the Chinese government is secretly planning another upheaval. He points out that news has been obtained from reliable sources that the Empress Dowager has received secret reports from all viceroys and governors regarding the number of soldiers and amount of war munition that could be raised, and instructions have been given to train the Manchus in the use of the rifle and in western drill, they then to be drafted to the different provinces to instruct the soldiery.

The lecture committee of the Ottawa Literary and Scientific society has prepared the following program for this winter: Nov. 21—Mr. O. J. Jolliffe, M.A., A Study of The Man from Glengarry; Nov. 28—Mr. A. McGill, B.A., B.Sc., Purification of Drinking Water; Mr. W. W. Campbell, B.A., Original Poem; Mr. W. W. Edgar, B.A., Primitive Poetry: A Comparative Study; Dec. 12—Rev. S. Goldworth Band, B.A., The Development of the Canadian Type of Character; Jan. 16—Mr. W. L. M. King, M.A., LL.B., Social Settlements (illustrated); Jan. 30—Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick, K.C., Lord Russell of Killowen; Feb. 13—Dr. W. D. LeSueur, The Development of Responsible Government in Canada; Feb. 27—Dr. Benjamin Russell, M.P., The Poetry of Matthew Arnold; Mar. 6—Prof. Jean C. Bracq, (Vassar college), The French Treaty Shore. The excellent character of

this course, (says the Citizen) is apparent at a glance, and it deserves the support of all who are well wishers of the society and its high aims. The lectures will all be delivered in Goldsmith's hall, which has lately been renovated. Make a note of the dates.

Sir Henry Strong has resigned the chief justiceship of the Supreme Court, and has been appointed chairman of the commission to revise and codify the statutes. Sir Henri Filzeau Taschereau succeeds Sir Henry Strong as chief justice of the Supreme Court. The vacancy created by the latter's retirement is filled by the translation from Toronto of Chief Justice Armour of the High Court. Mr. Justice Moss of the Court of Appeal becomes chief justice of the High Court, vice Armour, and Mr. J. J. MacLaren, K.C., Toronto, is appointed to the Court of Appeal, vice Moss.

The Finlanders are showing restlessness as a result of continued Russianizing measures of the St. Petersburg government. Self restraint is beginning to yield to a willingness on the part of a portion of the population to tolerate acts of violence. Such acts have hitherto been severely frowned down. Another serious indication is the beginning of closer relations between Finlanders and Russian revolutionists, a consummation devoutly wished for by the latter, but hardly to the taste of Interior Minister von Plehwe. It is believed the altered temper of the people is partly due to the terrible famine in the north, which is worse than any since 1867, when 100,000 people died of disease and starvation. The crops failed to ripen. The grain, cut green, makes miserable, unhealthy bread. In places bread is also being baked of bark. Emigration has reached the number of 18,000 persons this year.

English journalism in Japan, says the Montreal Star, like everything else in Japan is in a transition stage. While it is rapidly adopting the best and the worst feature of western journalism, it has, in the meantime a character which is all its own. The Anglo Jappy journalist seems to be absolutely destitute of any sense of perspective. Every incident of his story, big or little, is treated in about the same number of lines. In the Japan Weekly Times (a clever and interesting paper in its way), for October 4, we have a graphic account of the disastrous typhoon of the previous Sunday. There is not the slightest attempt at yellow journal sensationalism. We are told in fourteen lines: "In Sikkawa, 25 persons were killed by the tidal wave. In Kodusu, 15 persons were killed, 39 houses destroyed, 49 carried away, 21 damaged, and 68 flooded. In Otawara, 12 persons were killed, and about 30 are missing. In the villages along the highway to Atami, 10 persons were killed, 117 houses destroyed, 84 houses washed away, 12 sailing ships wrecked, about 100 boats wrecked, and all the houses damaged more or less. Thus the wave caused 62 deaths, and the disappearance of 30 persons." In the same condensed style we are told how many houses were flooded, how many trees uprooted, how many lamp posts broken, and so on, in each district.