

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL AND WINNIPEG.

Single copies 5 Cents.

## NOTE AND COMMENT.

Owing to continued ill-health Rev. W. L. McRae has been obliged to retire from mission work in Trinidad. His chief regret is that there is no successor in sight to take up the work that he has been obliged to lay down. He is coming back to Nova Scotia.

American as well as British papers are remarking on the fact that recently 47 students of the University of Vienna publicly renounced the Roman Catholic church and joined the Evangelical Church in Vienna. It is worthy of note that such a movement has been tolerated in Austria.

Irish paper manufacturers are discussing with great interest the project undertaken by William M. Callender of New York to manufacture paper from Irish bogpeat. The process is being put to the test near the famous bogs of Allen, in the heart of Ireland.

In Scotland the report of Lord Elgin's Commission has considerably cleared the air. The official attitude of the Free Church towards it is not yet known, but a significant discussion has taken place in the Free Church Synod of Moray. An overture angrily denouncing the report was submitted by a committee, but found so little support that it was withdrawn, and the Rev. Murdo Mackenzie, of Inverness, spoke very earnestly in favour of a peaceful and friendly settlement. Such a movement, he said, would remove a terrible scandal from their country.

When the American army of occupation left Porto Rico five years ago, there was but one Protestant church on the island. Today Presbyterians have more than fifty preaching stations, five schools, a large dispensary work, and a well-equipped and successful hospital. John Willis Baer recently returned from Porto Rico, and after going over the entire island affirms that there are now more people in attendance upon the Protestant churches of Porto Rico on Sunday, than in the old Catholic churches of that island. The future is bright for the sweep of the religion of Jesus Christ throughout the island.

The London Spectator says that the Temperance cause in Great Britain is promoted by the knowledge among the common people that it is "bad form" to get drunk. Decent people in "society" have given up the vice, and other persons are aspiring to be decent. Another motive given by the Spectator is the greater desire to take care of the health. Even the very ignorant now know that health is not promoted by swilling beer or guzzling whisky. Mr. Austen Chamberlain's explanation of the decreased consumption of liquor was that the people preferred amusements and health-excursions to getting drunk.

The very first sermon Dr. Torrey preached in Chicago Avenue Church, as its pastor, was on prayer. As he drew it to a close he said, "Behold brethren how glad it would make your new pastor if he knew that some of you people sat up late every Saturday night and rose up early every Sabbath morning to pray for your minister." His people took him at his word and astonishing results followed. Empty galleries soon became crowded and during his ministry there never was a Sabbath without conversions. When the ambassador in the pulpit is sustained by the prayers of those who sit in the pews then the power of God is felt. The church-going people of Ottawa should note this interesting fact.

The Paramont Prince of Abeokuta, in Yorubaland, West Africa, has been visiting the Bible Society in London. In thanking the Secretaries for the gift of a Bible in the Yoruban Language, he hit upon a good characterization of the Society, calling it "the great Society that has undertaken to feed the world."

The Brixton correspondent of the London Presbyterian writes: The revival campaign of Dr. Torrey and Mr. Alexander continues with increasing fervour and power. Each day sees scores led to Christ and the total number of converts recorded now exceeds 1,500. All South London is being aroused to new interest in spiritual things. One of the most encouraging features of the work is the daily increasing number of Christians who are doing personal work. Each night when the opportunity for personal dealing comes round, it is an inspiration to see the hundreds of men and women who at once begin to move through the audiences, Bibles in hand, pleading with men, women, and children to accept Christ.

A curious incident is reproduced from a British provincial paper of a hundred years ago concerning Lord Cochrane, afterwards tenth Earl of Dundonald. When his lordship, as captain of the *Palas*, thirty-two guns, returned from one of his successful raids on the Spaniards, just one hundred years ago this month (April) he put into Plymouth, and the newspaper account of that day states: "His lordship, by way of gratifying the seamen of his ship, and to show how lucky she had been in Spanish prizes (having made £200,000 in specie and Spanish merchandise in one cruise), ordered to be hoisted on the fore, main, and mizen trucks of their respective masts three massive Spanish golden candlesticks, which, glittering in the sun, had a whimsical effect to hundreds of spectators assembled below Government House." A few years later the adventurous officer who thus amused his men and the populace in Plymouth Harbour was deprived of rank and honours on charges most of which were afterwards proved to be false, and in 1830 he was reinstated, became an Admiral of the British navy in 1851, and died full of honours in 1860.

The Supreme Court of the United States recently rendered an important decision affecting labor. The decision was that the New York State law making ten hours a day's work and sixty hours a week's work in bakeries in the State is unconstitutional. Justice Peckham, in delivering the opinion of the Supreme Court, said: "The general right to make a contract in relation to his business is part of the liberty of the individual, protected by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution. Under that provision no State can deprive any person of life, liberty or property without the process of law. The right to purchase or sell labor is part of the liberty protected by this amendment, unless there are circumstances which exclude the right." Noting this decision the Christian Intelligencer says: "According to this decision no state can prescribe the hours of labor in any occupation within its boundaries, unless such occupation can be shown to be unhealthful. The decision appears to affirm in advance the unconstitutionality of the eight-hour law which labor unions have desired to have Congress enact, and to invalidate all State laws which fix the hours of labor in healthful occupations." Would not the same principle apply in Canada where labor unions are insisting that Parliament should enact laws prescribing the hours of labor?

The Masonic Order of Iowa in its recent annual gathering at Sioux City passed a resolution debarbing liquor dealers from membership in that order and making special provision surrounding those who are now Masons and engaged in the liquor traffic. The same order in Georgia a few months since passed a prohibitory clause without any limitations debarbing liquor venders and dealers from membership.

Rev. John A. Logan, Eberne, B. C., was elected Moderator of the Synod of British Columbia, which met at Victoria, B. C., May 3rd. Mr. Logan has been Clerk of the Synod for ten years, and has filled a large and useful place in the church work of the west, having taken an active part in Sabbath school work. He is a native of Colchester county, Nova Scotia, and for some years was pastor of the Presbyterian church at Acadia Iron Mines.

Three Americans, Dr. and Mrs. Shelton and Dr. Susie Reinhart, have reached the borders of Thibet and rented quarters for two years. They are the latest addition to the company of almost one hundred missionaries along the border who have been waiting to enter Thibet to do missionary work. Mrs. Reinhart once penetrated well into the interior of Thibet with her husband, but the latter was killed or captured—she does not know which—and she herself barely escaped.

Dr. Harper, President of Chicago University, is claimed as a notable example of the efficacy of the new radium cure for cancer. A few weeks ago Dr. Harper was pronounced to be suffering from internal cancer beyond surgical treatment, and bound to prove fatal. Radium and X-rays were tried upon him with unexpectedly favourable results. The cancerous area has diminished from eighteen to seven square inches. He has gained in weight, looks infinitely better, and is working eight hours a day.

A religious war is being raised in India over the claim by Mrs. Annie Besant that the religion revealed to her predecessor, Mme. Blavatsky, is the oldest in the world, older even than the sacred writings of the Hindus. Mrs. Besant is denounced by leading Hindus and her assertion of occult powers called an imposture. It is said of Mrs. Besant that she lives in Benares, the Hindu sacred city, wears the Hindu dress, eats food cooked by Brahmins and says that she was a Brahmin in a previous incarnation. When she walks the streets, she counts her beads and moves along surrounded by many devotees of both sexes.

The Rev. Dr. Ostrom sailed from San Francisco three weeks ago for Honolulu, where he has been engaged to conduct union evangelistic services. Some rather remarkable prayer meetings have been held in preparation for these meetings. The Advertiser tells of the inspiration of the occasion when the triumphant refrain of the hymn that has been sweeping around the world was sung by an audience which packed Central Union church, and by people of many races and colors. Prayers, it is said, were offered in many different tongues, but there was one great purpose, and everybody seemed to understand. Dr. Studder spoke briefly concerning the purpose of the meetings, and his remarks were translated into Chinese, Japanese and Hawaiian. The Scripture reading was the story of Pentecost, and the spirit of the meeting and the many tongues in which people participated were highly suggestive of that ancient day in the Christian church.