

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

The last National Assembly of the Roman Catholic Church, in Germany, announced that, for the future, Africa is to be their sole mission field.

The Legislature of Prince Edward Island has passed an act excluding automobiles from that province on ground that they constitute a menace to public safety.

Two ministers of the Glasgow Presbytery attain their ministerial jubilee this month—Dr. Donald Macleod, and Dr. Gillan, Carmunnock. Both received the congratulations of the Presbytery last week.

Zion's Herald calls the removal of Andover Theological Seminary to Cambridge "the most reprehensible betrayal of sacred trust that we have ever known," and sees in the movement a direct abandonment of the fundamental truth of the divinity of Christ.

The Presbyterian General Assembly of Australia, at Adelaide, expressed itself in favor of a union of the Protestant denominations of the Commonwealth, and commended the system of Bible reading which has prevailed in the public schools of New South Wales for 30 years without objection.

According to a contemporary our legislators at Ottawa are divided religiously as follows: Of the 300 men in the Senate and the House of Commons, 193 are Protestants and 107 are Roman Catholics, thus divided: Roman Catholics, Senate 34, Commons 73, total 107. Presbyterians, Senate 25, Commons 53, total 78. Church of England, Senate 15, Commons 40, total 55. Methodists, Senate 10, Commons 37, total 47. Baptists, Senate 2, Commons 6, total 8. Congregationalists, Commons 4. Lutheran, Commons 1.

During 1907, according to the Catholic Directory for England and Scotland, there was an increase of fifty-one priests and forty-five churches and chapels. There are said to be now 4,075 priests and 2,121 houses of Roman Catholic worship in Great Britain. There are 2,181,000 Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland (Great Britain), and 3,320,000 in Ireland. Gibraltar, Malta and Gozo have 215,000; the British possessions in Asia, 2,085,000; those in Africa, 350,000; and Australia, 1,092,500—a grand total of 12,053,000.

Says the Editor of the Orillia Packet: Mr. Blackett Robinson, the veteran publisher, who established several newspapers and periodicals—among them the first local paper published in Orillia—is still vigorously doing a good work for the Presbyterian Church in publishing and editing a cheap, popular weekly, the Dominion Presbyterian. Though cheap and "popular," there is nothing light or flippant about this paper. On the contrary, it is dignified, reverent and tolerant—catholic and evangelical throughout. The Presbyterian Church in Canada is well served by the publications bearing its name, and among them none perhaps, unless it be that gem among missionary periodicals, the Presbyterian Record, occupies a more useful place than the Dominion Presbyterian. May its shadow never grow less.

Andrew Carnegie gave \$1,631,630 for public and college libraries last year, according to figures just compiled. This brought his total gifts for libraries in all countries up to \$46,605,622.

When a few years ago the saloonkeepers of Chicago made a declaration of their business, as required by State law, five thousand out of eight thousand stated that they were "agents of brewers."

The Montreal License Commissioners have decided that all bars must be closed on Sunday. Evidence has been secured to show that some places on Sunday employ two or three bartenders. The commissioners believe that if the police co-operate with them, illegal traffic in liquor can be stopped. In the future there will be no getting off with fines, excepting in a case of a first offence, and on a second charge being laid the offenders' license will be taken away.

Danish butter has a great reputation in England and on the Continent. This comes from the fact that government regulation assures the purchaser that it is good, and always good. The creameries are generally operated on the co-operative plan, where each member pledges himself to furnish all his milk for a certain year to the creamery, except, of course, that consumed at home. The average-size Danish creamery handles from seven to eight million pounds of milk annually. The creameries are all run on a common basis, and the product of 86 per cent. of the cows in the country go to these creameries. The pack ages receive a government brand.

At the recent first annual meeting of the Anti-Alcoholic League of Quebec city there were over sixty persons present, and very satisfactory reports, showing good work for temperance accomplished during the League's first year, was presented by secretary and treasurer. Addressees were delivered by a number of speakers. The officers were re-elected as follows:—President, Sir Francis Langelle; vice-presidents, the Hon. J. Sharples and Dr. Brochu; recording secretary, Dr. Paquin; corresponding secretary, Mr. Edmond Rousseau; treasurer, Mr. P. B. Dumoulin. The attitude of the Roman Catholic bishops has a wonderful influence in favor of total abstinence in the Province of Quebec.

"The Black Stain" by Hon. George R. Sims, staff correspondent for the London Tribune, is a book to stir the world's heart to righteous anger against the liquor traffic. In it the author conveys, in the brief limits of one hundred and seventy pages, a most terrific indictment of the liquor traffic as it is related to cruelty and crime against children in the leading cities of England. The chapters in this book, as well as those of the previous companion series, "The Cry of the Children," appeared as serial articles in The Tribune during the past year, and have attracted wide attention. The most startling fact which stands out from every page of this running narrative of conditions as they exist to-day in the drink sodden districts of England's great manufacturing centres is the everywhere dominating influence of the drink curse in the ruin and degradation of British childhood.

In answer to the objections to missions for Mohammedans, that "The time has not yet come," "The doors are not yet open," Dr. Lepsius said to German Christians: "The time has not yet come because we have forgotten to wind the clock; the doors are shut because we keep the key in our pockets."

Dr. Kelman's new book, which Messrs. Black are about to publish, is entitled From Damascus to Palmyra, and embodies his travel and historical impressions of a recent tour in the East. The volume, which contains seventy full-page illustrations in color by Margaret Thomas, will be published at 20s. net.

London newspapers have published an appeal to the British public to take cognizance of the extraordinary and unparalleled conditions in China. An aroused public sentiment is needed to preserve the "Open door" for trade, to insure just treatment of China by foreigners, and to take advantage of the unique opportunity for benevolent and missionary work. Distinguished churchmen of all denominational connections sign the appeal.

It is a source of gratification that Abyssinia has at last opened its doors to Protestant missionaries, and that the first to enter the field are Lutherans—Swedish Lutherans. The Swedish missionaries, so the report runs, have long camped on the boundaries of Abyssinia, and are now located at Adis Adeba, which seems to them the most promising point to begin their work. The Abyssinians are professedly Coptic Christians, and, as is well known, the King claims descent from Solomon through the Queen of Sheba. The religion of the people, however, is not of high order, and when the priestly opposers of the work of the missionaries carried to the King the printed gospels which were being distributed, instead of exiling the Swedes, he said, "I have read these books, they are good. Let the people read them too." He then issued an order that all children over seven years of age should go to school, promising to pay the salaries of any competent teachers the missionaries might supply.

During the night of April 2, thirty-six men, including their commander, were drowned in the wreck of the British torpedo boat destroyer Tiger, cut in two in the darkness by the armored cruiser Berwick off the Isle of Wight. The vessels belonged to the Portsmouth division of the British home fleet, and were engaged in night battle manoeuvres, without lights, in the channel. The night was dark, and the commander of neither vessel was aware of the close proximity of the other. Not seeing the Berwick, Lieut. Middleton of the destroyer steered his thin-sided craft directly across the bows of the big cruiser, which, though steaming slowly, caught the Tiger amidships and cut her in two. The forward part sank immediately. The commander and deck crew, who were dressed in heavy oilskins and boots, went down with the vessel, not having time to free themselves from these heavy incumbrances. Of the 22 men who were rescued, most of them were engineers and stokers, who, having light clothing, were able to keep themselves afloat until boats from other ships which were immediately launched, picked them up.