

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

The Twentieth Century Fund of the Irish Presbyterian Church will amount to about £100,000. It is proposed to use from £25,000 to £30,000 in the erection of an Assembly Hall and Presbyterian Association House in Belfast.

It is interesting to learn from Dr. Tappan's recent book, "England's Story," that the reason that the followers of John Wesley were called Methodists was because they lived so methodically and met so regularly for prayer and preaching.

Asked what would happen if England should withdraw from India, a highly educated Babu in Calcutta answered, "Go into a zoological garden, open the gates and let out all the lions, tigers, and hyenas, and you would see what would happen."

In spite of its enormous size the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris has hitherto been simply lighted by wax candles, as gas, it was thought, would damage the walls and valuable paintings. Now we understand that it is about to be electrically lit. The cost of installing the electric light is estimated at \$90,000.

According to a statement made recently by John Burns, the English labor leader, it has taken 12,000,000 members of friendly societies in Great Britain fifty years to raise \$200,000,000, and yet each year four times that amount is spent by Englishmen for liquor. What an awful blight and waste the liquor traffic does cause.

Teunyson has fallen on evil times, and an unappreciative people. In some parts of Wales the authorities frown on him, and think his verses unsuitable to society. At any rate, the Chesham Council has refused permission to have a portion of his "Crossing the Bar" inscribed on a tombstone in the cemetery belonging to that body.

Michigan Presbyterian: It is probably true, sadly true, that the Sunday newspaper has come to stay. It is the devil's most ingenious device of modern times to keep men away from church. What a conglomeration of fish, flesh and fowl the Sunday newspaper does feed to the people who are not very particular as to their intellectual diet.

The Herald and Presbyter of Cincinnati and St. Louis reports that there is a more general interest and effort in the churches along evangelistic lines than has been seen for a long time. The news that comes is of large additions to the membership of the churches. Meetings are projected and evangelists are busily engaged in giving assistance to pastors. While it can not be said that a general work of grace is affecting the people, as in some well-known periods of revival, it is true that there is a widespread and encouraging interest in religion.

The Romanist clergy of Sicily have started an active agitation against celibacy. A committee of priests have been formed in Palermo with the object of circulating tracts and other literature directed against the celibacy of the clergy. They have already sent a circular to nearly all the priests in Italy, in which celibacy is attacked both on Scripture and on moral grounds.

"Ever since the accession of James I," writes "Ian Maclaren" in merry mood, "there has been a steady invasion of uncouth and hungry Scots into England, who have not only committed the unpardonable sin of being successful, but—iniquity of iniquities!—every Scot always brought some friend with him, and standing shoulder to shoulder formed a gigantic conspiracy to despoil the land."

The gradual welding of the former Free Church and United Presbyterian Church into one United Free Church is manifested by a recent call in Edinburgh. Bristol Church, which has called Dr. Oliver, of Glasgow, is one of the oldest of the United Presbyterian churches, and Dr. Oliver belongs to the Free Church section. In Glasgow and a few other places this tendency has been apparent, and that despite criticisms to the contrary.

The Belfast Witness has the following: Dr. Francis E. Clark, the founder and president of the C. E. societies, has arrived in Europe to spend some months in encouraging and developing the Christian Endeavor movement. He begins his work in Italy, and then proceeds to Sweden, Norway, and Denmark; afterwards he will visit Finland, Holland, and then South of France, Spain and Portugal. He will find time in the course of his travels to be present at the great Endeavor meeting at Manchester, and may spend some weeks in meetings with Christian Endeavorers in various cities in Britain.

The city of Glasgow, Scotland, is about to increase her indebtedness by about £1,250,000. Half-a-million is needed for an increased water supply, and three-quarters of a million will be required for erecting dwellings for the poorer citizens. The Christian Leader regards both projects as "necessary and laudable objects," but also pointedly adds: "The condition of the poor will never be greatly improved until the drink traffic is curbed, and its horrible output of poverty, vice, crime, and disease is seriously diminished. That is the plague spot in this land. You may carry your slum dwellers into the country and give them well built and ventilated rooms, but unless you can persuade them to part with their dirt, and adopt wholesome methods of living, you will not have done much." The drink traffic is the plague spot upon many lands, including Canada, and the producer of many other plague spots.

Rev. G. Campbell Morgan recently preached in the Fifth Avenue church, New York, on Zech. 8:5. He gave a telling picture of the millennial city—the city which shall be when the Kingdom has fully come on earth, the city whose streets are fit for boys and girls to play in, the homes which train up boys and girls fit to play in the streets. That is the kind of city and the kind of home that we all long to see. Evidently what the home in the city will be. It has been well said that every problem which confronts the Christian church to day has a "home end" to it. The solution of the temperance question, the amusement question, is largely to be found in the home. Before God made churches or states He made a home. It would be well for us in our social schemes we made more account of the home, and the influences which flow from it.

Referring to the punishment awarded to the Liverpool G. B. bank robbers, the Christian Leader comments very effectively upon the small salaries paid to bank clerks in the Old Country as being a temptation to dishonesty. That journal says: "But a serious question arises as to the salaries paid to bank clerks. Is it correct that they are miserably small? A man may be, we are told, in the service of one of the great and wealthy corporations, paying its dividend of 12 or 20 per cent., and after fifteen years' labor, gets the handsome salary of a little over £100 per annum. Upon this he must live and appear respectable. Marriage is out of the question. How is it to be done? The reply, of course, is, that the banks give the market value of the labor required. Is that a justification for the temptation that is put into the way of their servants who daily handle large sums of money? It speaks volumes for the general integrity of bank clerks, that so few become defaulters. But great is the responsibility of those who keep them at such temptation-wages." Does this fit the latitude of Canada?

The Christian Intelligencer of New York of a recent date gives a brief but interesting resume of the progress of evangelical work in France. Ten years ago, by means of correspondence with Protestant pastors, he discovered that there was a very general feeling of discouragement; Protestantism was almost overwhelmed in the surrounding Catholicism and unbelief. Now all is changed. Protestant pastors are working with great hope and enthusiasm and are seeing the fruits of their labors. One of the speakers at a meeting of Franco-American Committee of Evangelization, spoke of the uprising within the Catholic Church in France, of the Priests' movement, of the one thousand priests who have left the priesthood within a few years, of the 45 villages which have asked for Protestant preaching, and of Madranges and other villages, which have gone over en masse to the Evangelical faith. The special effort just now is to concentrate the work of auxiliaries, churches and individuals on particular fields, supporting a colporteur evangelist for \$150 per annum, or a pastor for \$400, and hearing directly by letter from the worker thus supported. France is white to the harvest.