

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment

Principal Rainy, D.D., and the Rev. Dr. Jas. Stalker, are expected to form part of this year's deputation from the Free Church General Assembly to the English Presbyterian Synod.

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A curious case was heard in Paris. A traveller in a railway train refused to deliver his ticket to be punched, on the ground that the collector had dirty hands, and should wear gloves. He had to pay 25 francs.

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Some perfervid Caledonians are complaining that on the house where Sir Walter Scott lived in Rome the municipality have erected a stone bearing an inscription about Sir Walter Scott, who is described as the great "Englishman."

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Professor Lindsay, D.D., of the Free Church College, Glasgow, has been appointed next Cunningham lecturer by the council. His subject is "The Growth of the Organization of the Christian Church down to the time of Augustine."

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Dr. John Watson in America.—The Evangelist says: "Dr. John Watson (Ian Maclaren) has given great delight to many people during his brief stay in Philadelphia. He reached the city on Saturday morning and after luncheon with Mr. John Converse delivered a lecture in the Academy of Music to a crowded house. Sunday evening he preached in the Second Presbyterian Church, in Germantown. In spite of a cold, heavy rain the large auditorium was crowded. Dr. Watson spoke on three of our Lord's interviews; with a critic—Nathaniel, with a formalist—Nicodemus, with a sinner—Zaccheus. The sermon made a deep impression. On Monday morning Dr. Watson addressed the Presbyterian ministers in Witherspoon Hall, and in the evening he was the guest of the Presbyterian Social Union, where he also spoke. He was cordially received on these occasions, and his visit to Philadelphia will be long remembered."

It is said that eighty thousand persons in Armenia are in danger of starvation unless England and America send, out of their rich stores, the pitance that will save them.

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The Edinburgh U.P. Presbytery in dealing with Sabbath observance is not quite so despondent in its report as usual. Attendance upon public worship is reported to be largely prevalent, and the information obtained by the committee goes to show that recognition of the claim of religion marked the observance of the day within the Presbyterial bounds.

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Great interest is being taken in American hospitals in the case of a woman, whose neck was completely broken by a fall. The woman's head is kept in position by slings and a delicate system of balances, thus allowing a species of respiration. She is conscious, and speaks easily. Specialists are flocking to the hospital, even from Canada, to study the phenomenon.

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There is no oath in the Japanese language—no word that is equivalent to an oath. Not only is there no native word in which profanity may take refuge, but there is no imported word. During the past ten years foreigners have added thousands of new words to the language, but not one profane word has been incorporated. In this respect Japan is believed to stand alone among the nations.

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A notable deterioration of regard for the Lord's day is reported in England. Three causes are at work. 1. The introduction of continental ideas, German and French. 2. The formation of a so-called Sunday League, which is working to promote the secularization of the day. This league is working earnestly to promote excursions, to arrange concerts and games, etc. It is charged that the Catholic Church is in sympathy with the league. 3. The pleasure-seeking spirit which is so dominant on both sides of the Atlantic. But, says an exchange, there is another cause which is too much overlooked. That is the general tendency to throw the reins on the neck of youth. There is no longer that parental restraint which was so wholesome in its effect on the customs of the community.

The reports which have been prepared for presentation to the English Presbyterian Synod will show a total membership throughout the Church of 73,239, an increase for the year of 1,795. The income amounted to £278,000, an increase over the previous year's total of £8,000. The congregations now numbering 315, against 311 last year.

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Reports come from Brussels of large accessions to Protestantism; so that at present five Protestant churches are being rebuilt and enlarged. The evangelical spirit that attracts the working classes. The result is that even Socialists help the movement toward Protestantism. The Protestant churches are constantly full; while the Catholic are neglected. Among the upper classes, also, the number of converts to Protestantism is increasing.

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Religious conditions are very much the same in both England and the United States. Canon Gore says that churches have been too much occupied with the functions of amusing the people and of making religion "pleasant." It begins to be evident that the results are not favorable to depth of piety and personal consecration. In the language of the late Dr. A. J. Gordon, "In their zealous efforts to win the world the churches have made the great mistake of conforming to the world."

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English traders have been prohibited from supplying the natives of the New Hebrides with strong drink and firearms. French and other traders supply these to the islanders with deadly effect. Now English traders complain that this prohibition gives foreign traders a great advantage, and they are petitioning for a rescinding of the same. Dr. J. G. Paton, in an appeal to Mr. Chamberlain, not only protests against a withdrawal of the prohibition, but suggests that other countries should be strongly urged in the interests of humanity to prevent their countrymen selling drink and firearms to the natives. Mr. Chamberlain, speaking in the House of Commons, said he would gladly see an international agreement on the policy of prohibiting the sale of liquor and firearms to the people of those islands and other such native races, but the difficulties in the way had been hitherto insuperable.