

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 per Annum.

BELLEVILLE, MONTREAL, TORONTO.

Single Copies, 5 Cents

## Note and Comment

For many years past Mr. Ruskin's books have given him an income of \$4,000. Yet it is safe to predict that he has not died rich.

Dr. Habershon, the eminent physician who attended Mr. Gladstone has been appointed an elder in Marylebone Presbyterian Church.

In 1898 the number recruits drafted into the British military establishment was 252,382. Of this number only 173 could neither read nor write.

The women of Kentucky are organizing against the reign of violence in the state. They urge that the law against carrying deadly weapons be enforced, as a necessary first step.

A by-law has been passed in Little Falls, N. Y., calling on the police to arrest all boys, under 16 years of age, found smoking cigarettes. The hold cigarettes are getting on children is becoming alarming.

Dr. James Lindsay, of St. Andrew's, Kilmarnock, has been granted three months' leave of absence by Irvine Presbytery to enable him to deliver a course of lectures on "Church History" at Queen's University, Canada.

The religious canvass of the inhabitants of New York, undertaken by the Federation of Churches of that city, shows that the influence of the Sunday School is far reaching, and that the church attendance of Roman Catholic families shows the largest percentage of any other denomination. This is no doubt due to the supreme importance to the Romanist of the services of his church.

A Kurdish chief visited a mission school in Persia, and when he heard the girls recite, saw their exercises in Desarte, their needlework, heard them sing and talk in three languages and the seniors read in four, when he himself had examined the little girls in Turkish and the seniors in Persian, he threw down his book and exclaimed, "Who would think that girls could ever learn to do all these things?"

Last year Russia expended \$150,000,000 for her army, in a time of peace. For the same year she spent \$5,000,000 for the enlargement and reorganization of her prisons, and only \$3,000,000 for the education of her people, 95 per cent of whom are peasants. Ignorance is the bane of the country, and the people cannot farm without robbing their land, and last year 30,000,000 of them felt the stress of famine.

Mr. Spurgeon once said that it is with church members as with dogs. Give the dogs nothing to do and they will whine and fall foul of each other; but set them after a rabbit and they will cease their whining and snapping at each other. The best way to keep Christians from spiritual enmity and dissension is to set them to work. Get them fighting the devil and they will have no chance or stomach to contend with each other. Get people to put their hands to the oars of the life-boat and they cannot tear each other's eyes. It is people with nothing better to do who fall into the temptation of pettiness and selfishness. Satan still finds some mischief for idle hands. Growlers and cranks are not often workers. Workers are not often growlers and cranks.

The \$3, 000 hospital for incurables provided for by the will of the late Robert B. Brigham, of Boston, is a mighty argument for Christian missions. What was done with incurables under the best pagan civilization? What is done with them now in heathen lands?

The British and Foreign Bible Society is having an altogether unprecedented sale of its publications throughout the Chinese Empire. Until within four years the average annual sale of Bibles and portions in China was about 250,000 copies, the highest number being 290,000, but during the first ten months of 1898 the sales amounted to 795,000 copies, and it was expected that by the 1st of January they would amount to over 1,000,000.

Dr. Alexander Whyte of Edinburgh, who is held by many to be "still the greatest of Scottish preachers," was entertained recently by his young men's class and received from them his portrait in oils, a magnificent piece of work executed by Mr. James Guthrie, R.S.A., Glasgow. The Rev. Alexander Beith Macaulay, a former assistant to Dr. Whyte, made the presentation. In acknowledgment Dr. Whyte said that his classes had proved one of the greatest blessings of his life.

The way in which the war spirit is so easily stimulated by war is illustrated by the fact that since the opening of the contest with the Transvaal English children have grown so clamorous for toy soldiers that the supply has been exhausted, and Great Britain is making drafts on Germany to recruit this branch of her military establishment. Queen Victoria showed her usual good sense at Christmas in giving orders that no war toys should be included among the gifts in her household.

The Chicago River has been made to run up hill at the behest of the Chicago drainage Canal trustees. Its waters now find their way into the Mississippi instead of into Lake Michigan. It took seven years' work and \$32,000,000 to perform this feat of magic, but it is better than the magic of the Arabian Nights Tales, in that Chicago will now have sanitary drainage and the nation a thirty-five foot navigable waterway connecting the Lakes with the Gulf.

What between building and renewing the organ says Ian Maclaren and adding stops to the organ and tuning the organ, the organ will cost every year in interest on capital and current expenditure enough money to have kept a missionary in foreign parts or to have supported a minister in a poor district of the city; and what it costs in anxiety to the organist and to the congregation in chronic irritation would, if reduced to money value and multiplied by the number of organ ridden churches, clear the debt of every foreign mission in the whole Anglo-Saxon World.

The Presbyterian Witness says: We have referred to the attitude of Hon. Edward Blake in the British Parliament. We may now quote it as a most remarkable example of the influence of race feeling. He has identified himself with the Home Rule agitation in Ireland, though in some respects the campaign in which he bears a part must be painful to him. In Canada Mr. Blake has been a fervent "Evangelical." In Ireland he finds his associates in a church that has no tolerance for Evangelicalism or any of its ways. In Ireland the great political demonstrations of the Nationalists are on Sundays. Mr. Blake's associates are men that would cheerfully do anything in their power to destroy the British Empire.

Six years ago, the German Emperor issued an army order, forbidding his officers to play cards, no doubt because of the gambling connected with the playing of the games. Recently he has repeated the order and commanded a rigid enforcement of the regulation under severe penalties.

Mr. John Swinton, who spent twenty years of his life in Mr. Dana's office, while Mr. Dana was editor of the New York Sun, tells us that on one occasion the great editor made this remark: "You've got to square this paper with God Almighty and the judgment day every day you live; and that's the only way to edit a paper!" This remark contains a great truth. A man who does not constantly set the Lord before him, and keep the day of judgment in view, will become "a wandering star to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever."

In the death of Rev. H. L. MacKenzie, D.D., of Swatow, the veteran missionary of the Presbyterian Church of England, the missionary cause has lost a distinguished worker. Dr. MacKenzie succeeded to the mission in 1860, then newly licensed, and the number of converts awaiting him was three. In 1898 there were 1,800 communicants in the Swatow district alone, two Presbyteries and an organization which gives every promise of stability and prosperity. He was a native of Inverness, and was closely related to the Rev. Donald MacKenzie, of Wes: Zorra, whose memory is still fragrant in Canada.

"Rome has excommunicated the most notable scientist in her Church because he lifted the standard of truth against dogma," said Dr. Horson, referring to the case of Dr. Mivart. "Rome has made the word 'dogma' a terror to candid minds, and has made opponents for Christianity, because men have identified Christianity with her 'infallible' dogmas which are incompatible with reason and truth." The tyranny of dogma he continued, was as cruel as the tyranny of the autocrat. Christians could submit to dogma only on condition that they preserved the right to prove it true.

A new idea in church architecture is to find place in the building that Dr. A.C. Dixon's church in Brooklyn proposes to put up within a few years. Dr. Dixon does not believe in closing churches during the summer, but he does believe in making them comfortable and attractive at all times. So he has adopted the idea that has already been put into practice in other ways, and the plans for his new church provide for a large auditorium on the roof, with open sides to let in all the breezes, and with elevators making it easy to reach the height. When once the plan has been tried, there will doubtless be many imitators and larger summer congregations.

The statue erected to the memory of the "Christian Soldier" in Trafalgar Square, was the scene of many heartfelt expressions of sympathy and respect on the anniversary of General Gordon's death. Several wreaths were sent, two of which are perhaps deserving of special mention. One forwarded by Professor Robert de Dessert, bore the words: "Evergreen his name, everlasting his fame." Another consisting of a large cross, came from the Ragged School Union with the tribute, "In hallowed memory of the Street Arab's 'Kernel' from the boys of the R.S.U." Men like Charles George Gordon are rare enough in any age, and this devoted servant of his country, and his God, inspires the youth of England to-day though his voice is forever stilled - to deeds of noble service. The beloved hero of Khartoum was not a truly great man only, he was a truly good one.