

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

The French Parliament appropriated \$4,000,000 in aid of the flood sufferers. The police report that 14,000 out of the 84,000 buildings in Paris were invaded by the flood.

In the New York investigation the cold storage men frankly object to a regulation requiring such food products to be tagged with the date when killed because they can now sell them to people who would not buy them if they knew how long they had been kept.

"The Scotsman" is informed that a movement is on foot to secure that the Rev. W. M. Clow, of Stevenson Memorial United Free Church, Glasgow, shall be nominated for the vacant chair of Practical Training and Ethics in the Glasgow College. The Rev. Dr. Drummond, the minister of the largest congregation of the old U. P. Synod in Edinburgh, is also to be nominated.

The Queen of England is said to be responsible for the courteous variant of the grunt "No trespassing" and "Keep off" signs with which some country estates bristle—the word is used advisedly. The grounds of her Norfolk bungalow having suffered at the hands (and feet) of curious sight-seers, she has caused signs to be put up with the gentlemanly legend, "Private property, please!"

Women are not now adopting (says the "Book Monthly"), as they did not very long ago, the names of men for purposes of authorship. The explanation is that at one time it was supposed to be an advantage to do so, thanks to the prejudice of the reading public. Now it is almost an advantage for a woman to write as a woman, so thoroughly has the feminine pen conquered the world of fiction. Perhaps one day we shall have a man reversing the old order of things by using a woman's name on the title page of a story.

Christianity is certainly making wonderful gains in the far East. John R. Mott, secretary of the World's Student Christian Federation, predicts that the next ten years will bring about as wonderful changes in China as have been brought about during the last forty in Japan. It was said after the Boxer trouble that Christianity would be a long time recovering in China. But since then the number of Christians has increased at least 150,000. Fifteen years ago there were only about 15,000 Christians in Korea. Now there are 200,000.

A committee appointed by the General Council of Korean Missionaries assembled in Seoul on the ninth of last October, consisting of Dr. James S. Gale, Dr. H. G. Underwood, the Rev. D. A. Bunker and Mr. Hugh Miller, send out the following call to prayer for Korea: "Through the evident guidance of the Holy Spirit the General Council of Evangelical Missions in Korea was led to decide to pray and work for a million souls in Korea this year. Therefore, because the present is without doubt God's opportunity for making Korea a Christian nation; and because Korea is the strategic point of the Far East, and to win Korea now means to help immeasurably in the evangelization of the East, we ask Christian people in all lands to observe Sunday, March 20th, as a 'Day of Prayer' for the million movement in the onetime 'Hermit Land.' Pray that through the gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the missionaries, the Christian Koreans and those who are still in the darkness of heathenism, the million may be more than realized."

The new Imperial Legislative Council of India, through which the natives have a larger share in the administration of the affairs of British India, opened its sessions at Calcutta January 25th. Lord Minto, Governor-General, presided, and in his opening speech described the event as a great historical occasion, which opened a new era; but he warned the natives that representative government in the Western sense is inapplicable to the Indian Empire and that the British administration will no longer tolerate the teachings of the revolutionary press.

The biography of Lord Kelvin, by Professor Silvanus Thompson, which is to be issued this month, will present the great scientist under several aspects unfamiliar to the general reader. Very few people know, for instance, that Kelvin had a share in designing the "Dreadnought" type of battleship, or that he regarded the swift cruiser as more effective. The patent compass, which Kelvin invented, was offered to the Admiralty without any suggestion of payment, but received with such apathy that he decided to patent it and bring it to the notice of the mercantile marine.

The Bishop of London told an amusing fish story the other evening, presiding at a dinner of the London school teachers. There was an old Scotch gillie with whom he fished in Scotland, said the Bishop, who always called him the "Meenister of London." The gillie always said to his fellows—"It will be all right when the Meenister of London comes; he is sure to catch a salmon." He had an inflated reputation. But he nearly converted all the gillies from Presbyterianism to Episcopalianism on one occasion. He said to them, "Now, old boys, six salmon before lunch." By an extraordinary coincidence he caught six 18lb. salmon.

The British Congo sections of the Cape-to-Cairo Railroad have been linked up and formally opened. This completes a continuous British line of 2,147 miles from Capetown. The section now opened is 134 miles in length, extending from the Chartered Company's terminus at Broken Hill to the southern frontier of the Congo Independent State. Work is in progress across the frontier on 160 miles of Congo line into Kantanga, which, it is expected, will be completed in the autumn of 1910. What, of good or ill, the final completion of the Cape-to-Cairo Railway may mean for Africa no man can prophesy, for it passes human estimation.

It is a significant fact that, prior to 1370 (the year which proved so fatal to the papal claim to temporal power), all evangelical effort was disallowed in Rome; the only exceptional period, possibly, being the limited one of the Roman republic when the city was held by Garibaldi. Since 1870, however, the door has been open, and there are now thirteen or fourteen church buildings in Rome, three English Episcopalian, one Presbyterian, two Methodist, four Baptist, one Waldensian, one German Lutheran and one of the "Free Italian Church." There are only four buildings rented by the Baptists. A great influence is flowing from the evangelical work in connection with these various places; and in the face of the fact that the Church of Rome held the undivided sway for centuries, the result is most encouraging. There is no just ground for impatience, but there is much to be thankful for and to rejoice over, and, above all, to pray earnestly for. The moral and social conditions of Rome have steadily improved in proportion to the decrease of the power of the Vatican in the city.

The effect of chemistry on civilization, says Dr. Maximilian Toch, has been greater than that of any other science. "Engineering made but little progress until steel and cement, two chemical products, were cheapened, simplified and made universal." Medicine owes to chemistry the discovery of synthetic drugs, and of anesthetics, and the progress that has been made in the study of metabolism. The twentieth century promises even to outstrip the nineteenth in chemical progress, which will lie in the direction of controlling foodstuffs applying the raw material in the earth, and refining of metals.

Sweden very naturally prides herself in owning as one of her daughters Miss Selma Lagerlof, to whom has been awarded the Noble Prize for literary achievement in 1909. She is recognized by the Swedes as a prose poetess of unusual merit, and is esteemed some what as Schiller is admired by the Germans. Her writings cover a wide range and have exerted a positive influence on the national character. The prize was awarded not on the basis of any single work; but in recognition of her substantial work as a writer. A description of her says she is "a modest and rather shy woman, of very attractive personality. She is an ardent lover of nature, with a passion for flowers and the ability to diffuse their perfume through her books."

There is no doubt that monopolies do get a considerable share at present, and that the prices of many things are higher in consequence of complete or partial monopoly. The cold storage houses may not be monopolies, but they greatly reduce competition. A large portion of food products are put in their hands, either by purchase or storage, and held for monopoly prices. They are sometimes permitted to spoil rather than allow competition to fix the price. More often goods are held until they greatly deteriorate. Food products coming out of cold storage will not keep as long afterwards, and sometimes spoil on the purchasers' hands. More often they are consumed with loss of flavor, really worth no more than a fraction of fresh products, although sold at monopoly prices.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Herald and Presbytery, says: Attention has been called to the fact that the Monroe Doctrine would require us to protect Canada from seizure by any foreign power which was at war with Great Britain. The doctrine, long accepted, is that the United States will not permit any European power to extend its possessions on this continent, or to acquire new territory here. Many years ago we specifically pledged our army and navy to defend Spain in her possessions in Cuba if they should be threatened by any European power. The same rule would hold with Canada, and the Monroe Doctrine would require us to come to its defence if threatened by France or Germany. The suggestion made by Andrew Carnegie and others, that Great Britain guarantee our Pacific Coast against attacks in return for a promise to defend British Atlantic possessions, would therefore seem to be in our favor. The Monroe Doctrine would make it for our interests to do that, anyway. With a definite treaty to this effect, we would not be compelled to send any ships, since no nation would attack the Atlantic Coast of Canada, defended by the United States as well as Great Britain. On the other hand, the British Pacific fleet might save our Pacific Coast from serious loss. Great Britain always has a fleet in the Orient, and could get ships to our coast ahead of Japan or any Asiatic power; or could follow them across to fight on this side, if necessary.