

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

"Wine," said a sarcastic Frenchman, "may be made from many things, even from grapes." Taxation, says the New York Journal of Commerce, is now reaching such a development that it will soon be pertinent to remark that taxation may serve many purposes, one of the incidental services rendered being the provision of money to defray the public expenses.

Many letters and observations of Queen Victoria, now being published, are causing the public to recognize in her great reflective gift and much insight. She said to Archbishop Benson: "As I get older I cannot understand the world. I cannot comprehend its littleness. When I look at the frivolities and littlenesses, it seems to me as if they were all a little mad."

In the regular Sunday School work of the Presbyterian Church (North) there are 16,006 schools, with 129,936 teachers and 1,677,690 pupils—or a total Sunday School enrollment of 1,267,626, and the total contributions of these Sunday Schools to church purposes last year aggregated \$945,312—or in round numbers a million dollars. From the Sunday Schools alone 41,642 names were added to the church rolls last year.

Let us be humbled by one thing, viz: That we know so very little. We speculate about God, says the Lutheran Visitor, and criticize his government of the world and doubt his plan of salvation, although we know next to nothing about our nearest planetary neighbor. And yet God rules a universe so immense that Halley's comet, now returning to our vision, can travel thirty-nine years outside and sweep off our greatest telescope.

"Worship is the highest act and attitude of the human soul. Man is never more exalted than when he bows in adoration before his Maker and Redeemer. The beasts of the field never conceive for worship. Man alone, of all created beings, offers homage to his Creator. In so far as man neglects worship, he neglects what is highest and divinest in his nature. To neglect or refuse to worship is to drift back toward animalism. The more spiritual we are, the more worshipful we will be."

The newest British "Breadnought" cruiser "Lion," and her sister ship, for which contracts have just been let, will, according to a high authority, be remarkable for their formidable tonnage of 26,350, and speed of 23 knots. These vessels will be 700 feet long, only 62 feet shorter than the Cunard line steamer "Lusitania," and will carry eight 12-inch guns. The big warships will cost over \$19,000,000 each. The latest battleship, the "Orion," which is about to be laid down at Portsmouth, will be 22,500 tons.

A Detroit teamster found \$900 and promptly sought out the owner and gave him the money. "There are lots of men just like that," said a visiting minister from up the State. "Only not many have such an opportunity to prove their honesty. In fact the great majority of men are strictly honest, or mean to be, but they do not get their names in the papers because of that fact. Mere honesty is not new nor strange nor sensational enough for the papers. They are after the rogues and the rascals, and the bigger the sinner and the blacker his crime the larger the space given to writing him up."

The annual report of the Board of Railway Commissioners states that during the year ending March 31st last, 438 persons were killed and 1,201 were injured on railways in Canada.

The proportions were: Passengers killed, 26; injured, 227; employees killed, 191; injured, 769; other persons killed, 231; injured, 205. The Canadian Pacific killed 18 passengers and injured 47; the Grand Trunk killed 3 and injured 111; the Canadian Northern killed one and injured eight. The C. P. R. killed 120 employees and injured 158; the Grand Trunk killed 46 and injured 269; the Canadian Northern killed seven and injured 170, and the Michigan Central killed three and injured 142.

A curious ceremony has just taken place at Geneva, where a young woman, twenty years of age was baptized in one of the bathing establishments according to the rites of the Millerists. She appeared in chemise and short skirt and stood up to her knees in water and so remained while the minister read some passages from the New Testament. The minister wore a frock coat and high boots. Taking the postulant by the waist he plunged her into water and asperged her copiously. Then she was taken into a room and dry clothing given her. This is the second baptism of the kind which has taken place in Geneva.

The Peary and Cook dispute over the North Pole has reached an acute stage, remarks the New York Observer, and, like almost all questions of moment, tends to divide the public into two great warring camps. But really there is no need of taking sides in this controversy. Let it be settled dispassionately, by a large jury of scientific men—not even by one body, however reputable, but by a grand jury of men of all sections of the educated world. Humanity naturally tends to partisanship, and there be many who say, Our man is right, proofs to the contrary notwithstanding.

A human hair of average thickness can support a load of six and one-fourth ounces, and the average number of hairs on the head is about thirty thousand. A woman's long hair has a total tensile strength of more than five tons, and this strength can be increased one-third by twisting the hair. The ancients made practical use of the strength of human hair. The cords of the Roman catapults were made of the hair of slaves, and it is recorded that the free women of Carthage offered their luxuriant tresses for the same use when their city was besieged by the Romans.

The claims of Roman Catholics to equal political and educational advantages with Protestants cannot be disputed, says the Christian Irishman. The Protestant who would deny his Roman Catholic neighbor equal rights with himself is not true to the Protestantism he professes to hold. The Protestantism that does anyone a wrong stands condemned as unchristian. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" is the authoritative pronouncement of our Redeemer. The limitation fixed by the words "as thyself," carries the Divine sanction.

But Roman Catholicism asks for more than equal rights. The Church must govern the State. The Pontiff must have the precedence of the King. We do not label Roman Catholicism in so writing. Roman Catholics will readily admit the correctness of our representations. They will go further, and proudly defend a church which alone of all the churches has the boldness to claim infallibility.

The issue must be joined in the first instance, not between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism, but between Roman Catholicism and the State. The State will have to fight for her own independence, and will do so with the less hope of success the more she countenances principles that must in the long run antagonize her own.

Bishop McDonnell, of the Brooklyn Catholic Diocese, has ordered the clergy to dispense with sermons at half past six, eight, nine and ten on Sundays. Instead they are to give instructions based on the catechism of the Church. This plan is said to be in vogue in Ireland. The diocesan secretary said that the idea is one which will help grown people through these plain instructions to secure a deep and fine conception of all that the Church has to offer. The priests will unfold in the most careful way the teachings of the sacraments, the Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Hail Mary, the Lord's Prayer, etc. It is quite probable that an entire year will be spent in instructions in the Apostles' Creed and by the time the last leaf in the Book of Instructions has been turned ten years will have elapsed. Protestants can learn some things from the Roman Catholic Church. The Protestant minister who expounds the Scriptures and the doctrines of his church in the morning two Sundays in the month, and then preaches as powerful a sermon as he can in the evening, and the next month takes two evenings, for the expositions, may discover that he has more attendance in the evening than he has when he preaches. It takes a master mind to expound well; but it is an art that can be acquired.

One of the foremost evangelists of our time is popularly known as Gipsy Smith. His proper name is Rodney Smith. He has completed a very remarkable tour of the United States and is now at work in England. A writer in a recent number of the "Interior," describes him admirably. From boyhood to manhood the Gipsy's life has been filled with romance and adventure. Born in a tent, cradled in a van, nursed in village lanes, motherless, schoolless, but hungry of heart, keen of mind, and blessed with a devoted father, he finally broke through all barriers of Gipsy environment and became a great cosmopolitan champion of the gospel.

Wholly has this been the rise of mind and the victory of personal worth. No clap-trap, no bombastic pretensions, no egotistic presumption. The Gipsy is up to stay, because under him lie the foundation of a well-wrought and worthy manhood.

He learned to read and speak in the rude school of selfhelp, and how well he was taught may be judged when we see it said in a great London daily that never since John Bright was the simple effective English of public speech had a more remarkable representative.

Shall we call his a great preacher? Not according to standard rules in homiletics. He is innocent of school modes—that is sure. He certainly is no logic-chopper, nor very stony on syllogisms, and he makes but little of first, second and thirdly. But if by preacher you mean one who stands and in singularly effective simplicity of language pours out his whole heart in a flood of tender appeal to men; if by preaching you mean setting forth a message that iterates and reiterates the call of Christ with a suasion sweet, tender and irresistible, then Gipsy Smith is a great preacher, and his unpretentious sermons are great preaching.

Whether he is marcing at the head of a slum parade or from the home plate on the ball grounds he preaches to thousands of baseball enthusiasts, he is using a striking method to secure a desired end. And in all his sermons there are wonderful periods that work out to a stirring dramatic development, at the climax of which men know that one well familiar with the human heart has reached for it.