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Note and Comment.

Her Majesty has consented to the Duke of York opening the first session of the Australian Commonwealth Parliament. The Duchess will accompany him.

It is reported from London that Marconi had succeeded in transmitting a message by the wireless system from Boulogne, France, to Dovercourt, England, a distance of 60 miles.

The Rev. Dr. John G. Paton, of the New Hebrides, whose illness brought his Canadian tour to an abrupt conclusion, has so far recovered as to be able to sail from New York to Great Britain.

There are 40,000 telephones in use in Stockholm, Sweden, or almost one to each family. The tariff is very low. One can telephone within a radius of fifty miles of the city for a little over a penny.

The most striking feature of a return under the Inebriates' Act recently published in England is the excess of women over men convicted under the first two clauses. The figures are ninety women and two men.

The death is announced of John Patrick Crichton-Stuart, Marquis of Bute, at Dumfries House, his seat in Ayrshire, from paralysis, in the fourth year of his age. He was the reputed hero of Disraeli's "Lothair."

The Indian Viceroy reports that the general rainfall continues, and that fine weather is now wanted for ripening the crops. The number on relief works is still further reduced, and prices are falling slowly everywhere.

The Idaho, with 400 or 500 Canadian soldiers, is expected to arrive at Halifax on the 25th inst. Preparations are being made to give "the boys" a great welcome; and at Ottawa a large committee has the matter in charge.

In Scotland the returns from Presbyteries on the Union overture are now about completed, and only three Presbyteries of the church have carried a majority against union. These are Skye, Lochcarron, and Dingwall, and in all these the majorities are smaller than formerly.

Dr. Henry Van Dyke of Princeton University, has taken the place left vacant by the resignation of Dr. B. B. Warfield on the committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in America to consider the revision of the Confession of Faith. Dr. Warfield is an opponent of revision. Dr. Van Dyke favours it.

Before leaving for Canada Lord Strathcona received the freedom of Forres, his native town, and afterwards opened a bazaar in aid of funds for a new Free church. His Lordship is now in Montreal where he was received with enthusiastic demonstrations of affectionate regard by the students of McGill and the citizens generally.

Mr. Ira D. Sankey, for a long time an intimate friend and associate of the late Mr. Moody, has received a warm welcome on his re-visit to England. His reception at Exeter Hall was a notable event. On arriving at London he found a hundred invitations awaiting him for his services.

It is fifteen years, says the Belfast Witness, since a new parliament was convened in November. This was the ill-starred parliament which Mr. Gladstone invited to dismember the Empire at Mr. Parnell's bidding, and on Mr. Parnell's terms. The result of that appeal we all know. It smashed the Liberal party and is responsible for the chaotic condition of the Opposition now.

Quebec has begun work on her new bridge. It will cost \$4,000,000 at least, and is to be a mammoth affair. The cantilever span will be about 1,800 feet long, 90 feet longer than that over the Fifth of Forth. The total length will be 3,600 feet. The centre span will be 150 feet above high water.

Few women have done more for their sex than the Baroness Burdett-Coutts. In London alone she has established free sewing schools and an organization for the training of housemaids. She has provided a shelter for homeless women, one half of whom have gained courage to begin life anew. She has organized the flower girls of London into brigades, with fixed stations assigned to each, under police protection.

Mr. Bryan, the candidate for the Presidency of the United States of America, is a man of about forty. He is a Presbyterian, a regular attendant at church, but not inclined to pose as a religious man. His books are his chief pleasure. Horseback exercise is another enjoyment of his, and he has a thirty acre farm where he practices agriculture and conducts experiments in soil culture. His home life is everything that could be desired.

"Dr." John Alexander Dowie, "Overseer on earth of the Christian Catholic church," left Chicago last week for a trip through the Holy Land. The New York Sun says: "The community of Zion, though but seven years old, has amassed property worth at least 1,000,000 dollars, all of which is in the name of Dr. John Alexander Dowie, not as trustee, but as absolute owner." This man was formerly a Congregational minister.

We are glad to observe that the crusade against vice in New York is being heartily supported by the press, the pulpit, and the various societies whose special object is its suppression, and that it is also receiving the moral and practical support of the city at large. Never was such a crusade more needed, for there never was a time when crime was so prevalent. The indications now are that the good citizens are aroused, and are determined to fight it down.

Sir Wilfred Laurier enjoys an unique popularity, not only in Canada but in the motherland. It looks as if the Liberals, under his leadership, will again sweep the country; and, indeed, to the non-partisan onlooker, there seems to be no good reason for a change. The country is prosperous, the manufacturing interests were never more so; and it is not claimed that a change of government, just now, would result in a better or more economical administration of public affairs.

A Scotch correspondent of the British Weekly says: "A quiet but very real interest is being felt throughout the Presbyterian churches in the persistent controversy which Principal Story is waging against the injustice being done to our Presbyterian soldiers in India in making the use of military chapels built by the State dependent upon the consent of Episcopalian clergymen and bishops. The injustice is real, and of that kind which is most fitted to irritate Scotchmen and Presbyterians."

The position of the liquor interests in the present campaign against the Hon. Hugh John Macdonald is pretty clearly and rather frankly defined in the address recently delivered in Montreal before the Licensed Victuallers Association by their president, Lawrence A. Wilson, wholesale liquor dealer of Montreal. Mr. Wilson warned his fellow whiskey sellers of what to expect if Hugh John goes to Ottawa as a member of parliament and a Dominion Cabinet minister. Mr. Wilson admitted the facts of the great temperance work performed by Hugh John Macdonald through his Provincial Prohibitory Law. "It is needless to tell you," said Mr. Wilson, "of the ruin and destruction he (Hugh John) is causing and will cause to our brethren of Manitoba. And further on Mr. Wilson urges

upon his hearers the fact that the election of such a man would be a menace to the livelihood of themselves and all persons engaged in the liquor traffic. The liquor interests are solid against Hugh John, and temperance people think all the more of him on that account.

Lord Wolseley, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, has appealed to the English people to refrain from offering intoxicating drink to the soldiers returning from the war in South Africa. Parents of the soldiers, and the British public generally, will be grateful for this appeal. But Canadians also should act on his wise suggestion. Here, too, people with mistaken hospitality press the returned young soldier to partake of that which only and always injures. Show your kindness in some other way than by saying: "Let us have a drink."

One of the most influential Roman Catholic papers in Europe—the "Cretien Français," published in Paris, laments the condition of the Roman church, both in France and elsewhere. Of Spain it says that Protestantism "was never in so flourishing a condition there as now. In cities where twenty years ago it would have been unsafe for a citizen to avow his dissent from Rome, there are now Protestant places of worship, well kept and regularly attended. The most populous and prosperous of the Provinces of Spain, Barcelona, is the one in which Protestantism is making the most progress."

There is little doubt that the coal deposits in China are the largest in the world. Herr Von Richthofen, the famous German geologist, estimated the anthracite coal deposits in the southern portion of the province of Shansi, at 630 milliards of tons. But these are only a small part of China's wealth of coal, more especially in the provinces of Shansi, Hunan, Shantung, Szechuen and Yunnan. The deposits in the two latter provinces seem more especially to tempt the French. The Manchurian coal deposits are already, to a great extent, under direct Russian control.

Rev. Dr. McLaren presided at the opening lecture in connection with the Ewart Missionary Training Home at Knox College, and introduced the lecturer, Rev. J. W. Rae, who spoke as to the most effective way of imparting instruction on the Bible. He advocated reaching the affections and the mind, as well as the intellect of the pupil. He should be taught to care for the body as well as for the immortal soul, to live a life in this world apart from sin, as well as to fit himself for the hereafter. There was a tendency to rely upon others for the interpretation of Bible truths. It would be shameful for a man in sound physical health to go round on crutches, and the speaker thought it was unnecessary for those gifted with sound reasoning powers to have recourse to mental prosthesis. Let them analyze and interpret the scriptures for themselves. He commended the methods for imparting knowledge adopted by Christ, "the great model teacher," which were just as effective now as in the days of the Apostles.

Principal Grant knows how to put a case tersely and clearly. At a recent meeting in Kingston to discuss the granting of a bonus of \$50,000 to Queen's University, he said: "Passing of the bonus would in the first place anchor Queen's to Kingston, and put an end to rumors about the university going elsewhere; secondly, it would increase the capacity of the students from 500 to 1,000; thirdly, it would make a ladder of learning for the poorest man's son or daughter equal to the rich man's; fourthly, it would benefit the community as a whole, and when the community is benefited, every citizen in it is helped; in the fifth place, it gives Kingston a right to go to the Provincial Government, showing there are only two educational centres in Ontario, and that Kingston has as much right for consideration as the other. The sixth point was it would put Kingston as a city ahead of all cities in Ontario educationally." Toronto would not be likely to concede the last point; and President Loudon and friends of the Provincial University would, doubtless, dispute the fifth.