

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

A new form of sealing wax has recently been devised. It differs from the ordinary stick wax in that it is inclosed in a glass tube, from which it may be poured by heating the cylinder.

A convent of Carmelite nuns in the City of Mexico has been broken up by the authorities. It is believed to be the beginning of a movement all over Mexico to drive out the monks and nuns.

According to a Japanese contemporary a new island has just been discovered in the Sea of Japan, at a point between Ul-long-do, Island of Korea, and the Oki archipelago, about thirty miles off.

"Concerning Buddhism, Barthelemy St. Hilaire, who made a special study of it, said, 'It is a spiritualism without soul, a virtue without duty, a morality without liberty, a world without nature and without God.'"

There is some comfort in the announcement, says the Religious Intelligencer, that the notable fraud Alexander Dowie of Chicago is being found out by his dupes. He has proved himself a culpable and very cruel humbug, and he is unworthy of respect or confidence.

The Presbyterian General Assembly at Philadelphia on Monday adopted by practically a unanimous vote a resolution providing for a committee to draft a statement of the faith of the denomination to be presented to the Assembly, which will meet next year in the Fifth Avenue Church, New York city.

There are according to a recent estimate, 240,000 Germans in southern Brazil. They are industrious and thrifty, and are acquiring much commercial importance and influence. This colonizing process is one way by which Germany may secure the influence in South America which she is credited with desiring.

Next summer the Paris, Lyons and Mediterranean Company will operate an electric railway from Geneva to Chamouni, the time being 3½ to 4 hours. It is expected that the line will be in operation by July. The trip to Chamouni has heretofore been very long and tiresome, and and it is probable that the new road will prove very popular to those who wish to economize time and money.

The Niagara Falls Power Company is about to proceed with the development of the power of the Horseshoe Falls. The present plan of the company is to develop 85,000 horse power. A third of this amount will be used to operate an industrial establishment outside Victoria Park, on the Canadian side; a third is to be transmitted to Toronto, and the remainder is to be held in reserve for the use of the Niagara Falls Power Company.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Iowa is taking strong ground against the liquor traffic. In a recent confirmation address he spoke in earnest warning against the evils of the drink habit. He said he intended to prevent Catholics engaging in the liquor traffic.

The allied Powers are still discussing among themselves as to the amount of indemnity to be paid by China. Several would rather modify their claims than agree to any increase in the Chinese tariff. Germany and one or two others are now arranging to withdraw their troops from Peking.

The result of the census of the United Kingdom will probably renew the agitation for a redistribution of seats in the House of Commons. According to population twenty or thirty members should be taken from Ireland and given to England, Scotland's representatives remaining as at present.

The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall are the guests this week of the parent colony of Australia. A concert at the Sydney Town Hall will be one of the most notable events of the visit. The Mayor will present to the royal visitors a gold album as a memento from the mother State and the city of Sydney.

Americans are learning things about Canada. Mr. Osborne Howes, testifying before the American Industrial Commission, said that the six million people of Canada were better customers of the United States than the fifty-six million people to the south of them, and that American policy had driven Canada into making a preferential tariff in favour of Great Britain.

Westminster Abbey is to be illuminated with electricity. Gas has been used for a long time as an illuminant in the Abbey, but the gas sets up a chemical change in the limestone which is followed by disintegration, and a few weeks ago a small marble shaft fell from one of the windows in St. Andrew's Chapel, the iron pin which had sustained it for six hundred years having become corroded.

The Hamilton Times says: There is a good deal of disappointment over the smallness of the attendance at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, especially over the lack of Canadian visitors. There is a simple explanation of the absence of Canadian crowds. Canadians know very little about the show, because in their wisdom the managers have not thought it worth while to advertise it in the Canadian papers. There is possibly another reason to which the Vankleek Hill Review made recent reference. It is that Buffalo is known all over the Dominion as the most anti-British city in the American Union; and our contemporary offers a number of pertinent illustrations in support of this view. Many self-respecting Canadians will give the show a wide berth.

At a recent meeting of the General Ministerial Association, in Toronto, the cigarette question was discussed. Professor Brown, of Chicago, who was one of the speakers, was very outspoken in his condemnation of the evils of cigarette smoking. He stated that this habit had been instrumental in reducing the penitentiary age from 32 to 22 years. As a means of counteracting the habit of smoking cigarettes, he recommended that employers should not employ boys who were addicted to it. This plan was thought a good deterrent from a practice that is blighting the prospects of many an otherwise hopeful life.

Sable Island off the coast of Nova Scotia is a dangerous spot, on which many vessels have been wrecked. The danger is increasing, owing to the fact that the ocean is rapidly washing away the sands, and thus making shoals that cannot be seen or marked by lights. The island itself can be seen but a short distance away, because it is almost entirely sand, and because little or nothing grows there that makes any marked contrast with the sands. In an effort to save the island the government is planting evergreen trees on it. Whether the scheme will succeed is doubtful; but, if the trees can be made to live and grow, it will greatly improve the situation.

The birth rate in Quebec is considerably higher than in Ontario; but this, as is pointed out by a contemporary, is to some extent effected by an enormous excess of deaths as compared with Ontario. "Death rate per 1,000 of population: Quebec—21.07. Ontario—12.05. Thus Quebec loses by death every year 9.05 people per thousand more than Ontario. Allowing for the difference in the death rate between the two provinces Quebec's net gain from excess of births over Ontario is 5 per 1,000 of population. This difference would be reduced or altogether wiped out if the registration of births in Ontario were as thorough and accurate as the registration of births in Quebec."

That old and reputable paper, the Stratford Beacon, is growing tired of "Hug-the-machine" Preston, and says: The sooner the Government comes to realize that Mr. Preston is something of a nuisance, the better it will be for all concerned. He seems to have a faculty for interfering in business other than his own and of blundering. The Ontario Government made the mistake of not keeping him down to his official duties when he was a member of its service, and the Dominion Government is making the same mistake" Preston is worse than a nuisance, and should be suppressed. But if this is impossible then the Government will do well to see that he remains at his post on the other side of the Atlantic, and thus be unable to make an annual exhibition of himself, as well as prevent him bringing discredit on the government by his unseemly conduct.