

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Lord Grey's public-house "Trust" scheme is suffering some strong criticisms. Canon Buckley thinks there has been more drunkenness at one of the Grey drink shops than in an ordinary public-house. "There had been so much drunkenness there as to make the movement a failure in the nostrils of many people. They should have inspectors. If it occurred again people like himself, who were teetotalers, would have to withdraw from the movement.

An anti-Christian journal in India calls attention to the fact that the negligence of the wealthy natives to the needs of the widow and orphan is tending to the Christianization of India. It says: "Do not think that Ramahi has carried away only 1,700 girls whom the nation did not want much; she has laid the foundation of 1,700 Christian families." Christian missionary work in India is gradually leavening the masses of the people of that great and populous country.

North Africa has one Protestant missionary to 122,000 Moslems, the Sahara one to 2,050,000, the Soudan one to 45,000,000. West Africa one to 30,000, and Central Africa one to 14,000 heathen. Brazil has a territory as large as the United States. With a population of 18,000,000 with only five missionaries, with about the same number of native helpers, 8,000 Brazilian converts, the 2,000,000 of aborigines of the interior are yet unreached. Here are two great fields awaiting missionary effort. Their moral and spiritual condition is appalling. Missionaries are needed by hundreds not by tens.

The latest startling denouement in United States trust circles is the capture, by the Rockefeller group of capitalists, of the United States Steel corporation, the greatest industrial concern in the world. Associated with the Rockefellers is Henry Clay Frick, formerly a business partner, but now an enemy of Andrew Carnegie. The ousting of J. Pierpont Morgan and his interests from the control of the great trust, may be followed by other startling denouements. This quarrel amongst the money kings, over a great industrial concern, may eventuate in some relief to the public who are being "squeezed" by the steel octopus.

The league against profane swearing, says the Morning Star, which was started a year ago by a young clergyman in Massachusetts has grown to large proportions. Its present membership is over 12,000 scattered over forty states, two territories, Canada, England, Scotland and Ireland, Switzerland and South Africa. The Archbishop of Canterbury is at the head of the branch in England. He sent a letter to be read at a meeting of the league in Boston on a recent Sunday evening. Gen. Lord Wolseley and President Roosevelt also sent letters. The object of the league, which is to check and stop profanity, is attained in many cases. It works through existing organizations, like Sunday-

schools, etc., and thus avoids increasing their number. Simple methods are often effective. A word, a card, a postal notice, or even a look, calling attention to the vulgarity as well as the wickedness of profanity, have been among the means by which the league has advanced its work. (We hope soon to hear of the organization of a branch in Ottawa, as well as in many other towns and cities of the Dominion.)

A writer in the "British Weekly" gives from the official report of the Decennial Conference the figures for the increase of Native Christians in India. It is there stated, on the authority of the officiating Census Commissioner for India, that the increase of Protestant Native Christians is 50.37 per cent., of Non-Protestant Native Christians 21.44 per cent., of Mussulmans 8.96 per cent., while of Hindus there is a decrease of 0.28 per cent. The Belfast Witness regards this as a very encouraging fact. Evangelical Christianity is advancing faster than Roman Catholic, or any other, while the Hindu religions show a decrease. But it must not be forgotten that there is still a mighty work to be done before India is evangelized.

His Holiness, the Pope of Rome, is endeavoring to effect much-needed reform in church music. He complains that there is too much operatic music creeping into the musical services of the church, to the exclusion of the devout psalmody which was once in use. He condemns the transforming of church services into concerts, and says the organ is to be used only to support not to drown singers. Perhaps a good many Protestant churches would act wisely in noting what the head of the Roman Catholic church says on these points. Under the name of "anthems" a good deal of operatic music is finding its way into even Presbyterian churches in this country. It is spoken of as "catchy" music and would be all right for a concert in a public hall, but is surely out of place in the solemn services of the sanctuary. Our higher church courts should take cognizance of these matters before it becomes too late.

The Belfast Witness recalls the fact that in Charles I's time England had the "Long Parliament," and in Charles II's time the "Drunken Parliament." The former abolished feudalism and the latter imposed Episcopacy on Scotland. The reason for calling it the "Drunken Parliament" is because every member except one was drunk when the act establishing Episcopacy in Scotland was passed. Great Britain must have had a very bibulous lot of representatives in those degenerate days of the Stuart regime. The object of the Witness in referring to this matter of ancient history is to pave the way for the suggestion that the present parliament of Great Britain should be known as the "Priests Parliament," because "its great achievement," the English Education Act, was an "attempt to extinguish Non-conformity and hand over the future nation to the priests, Anglican and Roman." Our contemporary adds: "This, after all, is a more vital and far-reaching issue than the

fiscal question; it touches the nation's soul and the spiritual and moral welfare of the whole people."

In an article published in the Lutheran Observer Rev. F. E. Clarke—"Father Clarke," young Christian Endeavorers call him—speaking of religious conditions in Norway, says: "The influence of the Queen and her second son, Prince Oscar Bernadotte, are most influential in favor of a pronounced and outspoken type of evangelical piety. The Prince is President of the Y. M. C. A. and of various missionary organizations, and goes as a preacher to the Lapps, to the washerwomen at their tubs, and to any whom his persuasive voice may reach. In Lutheran Finland, too, there is much more warm religious life and constantly increasing evangelical sentiment." This reminds us that Dr. Torrey, of Chicago, in the Interior of that city a few months ago, noted the readiness with which many of the aristocracy of Great Britain took part in religious and evangelical work, not only in connection with church services, but also in caring for the religious interests of those employed in connection with their families and estates. It will be a good thing for Canada when her wealthy men and those occupying high positions in public life, take up their cross and place themselves on record as followers of the lowly Nazarene. Some already do this but there are many who do not.

The campaign in France against the use of alcohol as a beverage is assuming large proportions. The leading scientific men of France practically lead in the campaign against distilled spirits—wine, cider and beer being regarded as hygienic beverages. Alcohol is classed by most of these scientists as a poison. The literature of the campaign consists not only of the deliverances of scientists and clergymen, but also of charts illustrating the injurious effects of alcohol on the human body, while in all the schools of France are to be found small but ably written text-books intended to teach the youth the destructive potentiality of alcohol. This is an exceedingly practical feature of the anti alcohol campaign. The minister of war is also taking a part in the fight and has forbidden the army the use of distilled drinks, their sale at the canteens being also barred. A French writer reviewing the various phases of the campaign thus describes some of the already apparent results: "The results of temperance efforts are already visible. Social customs are changing. In hotels one no longer sees men drinking milk and water. Friends no longer offer so readily the traditional liquors in former days. Fermented drinks have taken the place of distilled ones in many instances, and social courtesies tend to take a different form. \* \* \* Commercial institutions express their hearty co-operation with anti-alcoholic work among their men. The railroads find themselves obliged to oppose alcoholic drinks among their men. Some co-operative societies report that they refuse to sell alcohol in their stores. One very satisfactory communication was to the effect that Socialists were rapidly moving to take measures against alcohol."