

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment

A story is told of Jenny Lind being taken to see the view of Anglesa, across the Menai Straits. She gazed in silence, and then began to sing "The marvelous work," from the "Creation."

Bernard Quaritch, prince of booksellers, died recently in London. He was famous as a dealer in rare and valuable books. Many of the catalogues of scientific books were valuable from a bibliographical point of view. In the course of his career he handled large quantities of scientific books.

At Thanksgiving time we published in the Dominion Presbyterian the story of an incident in connection with "Besid: the Bonny Briar Bush." Some weeks ago, Miss H. Isabel Graham, of Egmondville, the writer of that sketch, received from Dr. Watson a letter expressing his appreciation of it. Dr. Watson said the sketch was "very interesting and encouraging" to him.

Prof. R. W. Wood of the University of Wisconsin, the inventor of a new color photographic process, has been invited to lecture before the Royal Photographic Society of London. He has taken a six weeks' leave of absence, and will soon show the London photographers the latest and not least remarkable American discovery.

Recent experiments with a view to connecting Brussels and London by telephone have been very successful, and it is probable that in a short time a regular line will be established. There is a telephone already working between Budapest, Vienna and Berlin, and in a short time it is expected that Berlin will have telephonic communication with Constantinople.

The immigration from Italy is increasing rapidly, says the United Presbyterian. In 1891 over one-seventh of the total incoming population was from Italy: in 1898 the proportion was one-fourth. For several years the Italian immigration has exceeded the Irish and German combined. The general conditions in the latter countries are more favorable than formerly, while the Italians escape increasing burdens by leaving home. They have to a large extent taken the place of the Irish laborers on public works. Of special interest is the fact that they do not show much interest in their native religion. There are very few priests among them.

The novel assertion is made by Professor See that the color of a star varies according to its age, being yellow in its youth and in its old age blue, the tint being a matter of temperature—the bluer it becomes according as it becomes hotter, because great heat means an activity that engenders blue light waves; thus, Sirius is a very blue star as seen through the telescope, simply because it is so hot, and giving out, probably, one hundred times as much light as our sun, though it is but three, and perhaps four, times as big. Vega, too, in the constellation Lyra, and a hundred times as large as our sun, is blue, the inference being that the heat it emits is enormous. The appearance of these stars, is, of course, as viewed through the medium of the earth's atmosphere, and their colors are, in some cases, so vivid as to exhibit marked differences, the fact being that, if the air envelope of the earth were taken away, their varying tints would be much more noticeable.

It is announced that Rev. Dr. William Patrick of Dundee, Scotland, has accepted the Principalship of Manitoba College, succeeding the late Dr. King.

Mrs. Kellogg, wife of the late Rev. Samuel H. Kellogg, D. D., L. L. D., of Landaur, India, has reached Pittsburg after a journey of more than two months from the heart of the Himalayas.

A French atheist once said to a humble peasant, "We will pull down your spires and rid you of your superstitions." The peasant replied, "You may pull down our spires, but you can not blot out God's stars."

In the island of Mull, on the west coast of Scotland, there is still living a cousin of Dr. Livingstone, the famous African explorer. Mrs. MacQueen, or, as she is better known, Kate Livingstone, has now reached the age of one hundred and two years, and, though able to go about, is in her dotage. Her people belonged to Ulva, and she was well acquainted with Dr. Livingstone, who visited her whenever he came to Mull. She still talks of her famous cousin, and sets much store by a silver brooch which he presented her, and on which her name is inscribed.

An incident is told by Christian Warf, which shows Mr. Moody's relation to the Roman Catholic Church. When the Roman Catholics were putting up a new church building in Northfield, Mr. Moody not only advanced the largest subscription, but he gave them the organ, taking the position that it was better that the Catholics should have a church, with its services, than be without them; and as for the organ, the better the music, the better for the church. But the matter did not end here. Later, when a Protestant church was to be built in Northfield, the stone for its foundation was hauled from the hills and presented to him by the Roman Catholics.

Speaking of Christian Science and its dangers, the Cumberland Presbyterian says that the spirit of religious tolerance is responsible for the prolonged life of many dangerous heresies. On the other hand some heresies grow strong on opposition. It has been a question, therefore, how to deal with the fatal errors of Eddyism, whether to let them alone to die of their own lack of life or to kill them by telling the truth about them. The first-named course has generally been pursued; but at last the other has been deemed the wiser method. The religious press is now telling the whole unpleasant truth about the dangers of Christian Science. In a recent editorial The Herald and Presbyter says among other true things: "The Christian Church may just as well awaken to the fact that it can no more tolerate this false system than it can Spiritualism, or any other form of infidelity and heathenism. It denies every really vital doctrine in the Holy Scriptures, and drags down the doctrine of inspiration to put it on a level with the production of this text-book of Mrs. Eddy. The whole plan of salvation, centred in the divine Christ who died for sinners, is scornfully pushed aside to make way for the hysterical vagaries of this conceited woman and her deluded followers, who believe neither in the facts of sin or atonement or forgiveness or judgment. Evangelical words are employed, but in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred they are robbed of their meaning and made to do service in opposition to the real gospel of Christ. It is deadly with no life in it."

Mail advices from India state that the situation there, due to the famine, grows worse every week, and that over three million men are now employed on Government relief work. It is a famine of water as well as of food, and no rain is now expected until June. The relief work is part of the "white man's burden," which this country may have to assume at some future day. During times of famine in India the British government sets all who will accept such work at work building and improving canals and similar labor intended for the improvement of the country. While the wages of a laborer are not large, those employed are able by it to earn a living.

The Russians, says the Michigan Presbyterian, are already finding some difficulty in their trans-Siberian plans of transportation. It looks as if war with Japan just now would be attended with serious difficulty if Russia should try to crowd the railroad with troops and munitions of war. This may cause a patching up of peace for the present. The following information explains the situation: Before the completion of the Siberian railroad it has become necessary to reconstruct the work already done, and this will cost not less than \$25,000,000. The information is supplied to the state department by Commercial Agent Greener at Vladivostok. His report, compiled from Russian sources, shows a curious condition of affairs on the road. In the haste of construction and the anxiety to get everything cheap the road was laid with a 12-pound rail instead of a 24-pound rail. The bridges were built of wood, and crossings were made far apart. Consequently, more than twenty miles an hour cannot be made on the level with safety. Only one passenger and two freight trains a day are run. To add to the danger there has been put on the line one of the heaviest engines in existence, the compound system. The light rails, the steep inclines, and the high gradings combined make travelling risky. On steep inclines, owing to the light rails, the heavy engines cannot be held, and running at a speed of thirty-three miles an hour, turns the rails out. Therefore it has been concluded that the road must be reconstructed on broader lines.

John Ruskin, the well known writer on art and other subjects, died on January 20. Mr. Ruskin was 81 years of age and had not written anything for several years. One of the daily papers gives the following points in regard to his life: "John Ruskin was the son of a wine merchant, and was born in London on February 8, 1819. He received private tuition and afterwards studied at Christ Church, Oxford, where he won the Newdigate prize in 1839. He received his B. A. degree in 1842 and graduated M. A. in 1848. In 1858 he was made Hon. Student of Christ Church, and in 1867 became Rede Lecturer at Cambridge. From 1870 to 1879, and from 1892 to 1894 he held the position of Slade Professor of Fine Art, Oxford. In 1898 the degree of Hon. D. C. L., Oxford, was conferred upon him. Prof. Ruskin was an honorary member of the Royal Society of Painters in Water Colors, also F.G.S., F.Z.S., F.R.I.B.A., etc., and member of several foreign academies. He was the author of the following among other works: Modern Painters, 1843-60; Seven Lamps of Architecture, 1849; Stones of Venice, 1851-83; Lectures on Architecture and Painting, 1854; Harbors of England, 1856; Elements of Drawing, 1857; Political Economy of Art, 1857; Ethics of the Dust, 1896; Time and Tide, 1887; Lectures on Art, 1870; Mornings in Florence, 1875-77; Art of England, 1888; Storm Cloud of the Nineteenth Century, 1884; Pleasures of England, 1884-85; Praeterita, 1885-89.