

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

"Japan is neither a purgatory, as some would have it, nor a paradise, as others maintain, but a land full of individuals in an interesting state of social evolution."

"All I can add in my solitude is, May Heaven's richest blessing come down on every one, American, English, or Turk, who will help to heal this open sore of the world."—Livingstone's last words.

"Queen's University Quarterly" has been issued after a delay of six weeks, owing to the objection of Mr. J. J. Harpell, the business manager, to insert the article of Prof. Cappon, on the western school question. Mr. Harpell has resigned after a compromise on his financial claims, and the article now appears.

The Rev. C. Huestis, Methodist minister in Edmonton, on Sunday last made serious charges against the social life of the town. He accused prominent society people, including ladies, of drunkenness, and of attending revels of a most disorderly character, and declared that the hotels were simply dives and poker dens, violating the license law every day.

A Christian from the London Missionary Society's college at Tientsin, China, who is now studying in the Imperial University at Peking, has started a Thursday evening prayer meeting in the University. He thus brings together seven Christian students of the University, and we may expect to hear more of that prayer meeting.

Young men in China who have some smattering of English are opening up what they call Anglo-Chinese schools in Shanghai and neighboring towns. One of these schools frankly advertises its limitations "English taught as far as the letter G." The foolishness of the advertisement is in itself a proof of the ardor of Chinese in that region to get hold of knowledge that comes from the West.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Mormon Church was lately celebrated at the headquarters in Salt Lake City. For the first time in the history of the church serious disputes and disagreements were manifested in the deliberations and decisions of the gathering. The movement in favor of the utter abolition of polygamy is said to be strengthening greatly, especially among the younger members, and the vote approving of the conduct of the president and the twelve apostles, was by no means unanimous.

In opposition to the Dean of Canterbury's appeal to the first six centuries, another document has been drawn up, declaring that nothing is binding on the Church, except what is taught in the New Testament, or is in accord with that. This paper is being signed by those who still hold to the Reformed faith. There are still a faithful few in the Church of England, but their position is becoming more and more impossible, as one may see from Lady Wimbome's articles in the "Nineteenth Century." Lady Wimbome clings to the Reformed religion and to the Articles. But her antagonist, Mr. Jackson, easily shows that the Prayer Book contains the essentials of Popish doctrine. Thus, the Episcopal Church speaks with two voices, and the Roman voice now prevails. As Mr. Chatterton said recently "The Reformation came; Scotland went Protestant, Ireland went Catholic; England went something or other, but what, no modern historian can perfectly demonstrate."

The Terrace Hotel, Amherst, N.S., has opened without a bar, and will be conducted without supplying intoxicating liquors to any person. The Mayor has set his face against the illicit sale of liquor.

The Rev. C. W. Gordon has greatly stirred up the people of Winnipeg by a faithful discourse regarding the morals of the place, and especially taking to task fashionable married women who countenance or tolerate transgressors of the law of God.

From Russia comes a report of a far-reaching religious movement, the chief symptom of which is the concession of liberty of conscience. Even the Roman Catholic Church authorities have not been more thoroughly opposed to religious liberty than the Russian high ecclesiastics; but now all this is changed.

The British and Foreign Bible Society has received from Rev. Mr. Casalia of the Paris Mission in Basuto-land, South Africa, \$226 as an offering for its Century round from the Basuto churches. About \$40 of this amount is from a newly organized church under charge of a young native pastor, which has very few men on its list of members. The most of the money came from the 60 women of the church. These black women earned it a few cents at a time, and made it truly a thank offering.

The London, G.B., Presbyterian publishes the following thoughtful paragraph respecting the death of the late Rev. John Wood, of this city: "News was received at the Memorial Hall, London, during the week, of the death of the Rev. John Wood, Ottawa, who for more than half a century was prominently associated with the work of the Congregational churches in Canada. He held various pastorates, edited the Canadian Congregationalist, and was secretary and later chairman of the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec."

Compare the condition of the people in any of the Roman Catholic countries of Europe with that of the people in Protestant Britain or in Protestant Prussia. Compare the condition of the people in any of the Roman Catholic countries on this hemisphere with that of the people of the United States. Compare the condition of the French Catholic population of the Province of Quebec with that of the Protestant population of Ontario. There is no comparison; only a contrast.

Princess Gustavus of Sweden, fiancée of Princess Margaret of Connaught, will be one of the visitors to the Court of St. James during the present season. The Princess, by the way, who speaks the admirable French required of every Royalty—and especially of Russian and Swedish ones—is now learning Swedish, and hopes to be able to speak it fluently by the time she is married. The duties then developing upon her will be onerous ones, for the Queen and Crown Princess of Sweden are both in indifferent health, and obliged to forgo all social amenities.

The Los Von Rom (away from Rome) movement in Austria is taking a strong hold on the students of the Vienna University. Fifty of them were solemnly received into the membership of the Wahninger Evangelical Church in Vienna on the 22nd of February last. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed on the occasion, and the church was crowded to the doors. Subsequently a meeting was held in honor of the occasion at which a thousand persons were present. It is understood that these are only the beginning of the fruits of a movement among the students that will soon lead to still larger concessions.

The rapid growth of this city is well indicated by the fact that although \$70,000 has just been expended in the erection of schools, and that \$30,000 was expended in building two others last year, the accommodation is quite inadequate. Another ten-room building is necessary.

A correspondent of the London Outlook states that one secret of Japanese success is that they are perfectly sober, drunkenness and all forms of debauchery not being among them at all, while Russians, especially the officers, are the victims of strong drink and vice.

Schiller, one of the greatest German poets, has pungently said: "Rob a man of his Sabbath, and you reduce him to a beast of burden." If the above statement is true, as we believe it is, then Sabbath desecration stands arraigned at the bar of human judgment, and millions of men in their inmost consciousness must echo the sentiment of the German poet.

Professor Milne of Newport, Isle of Wight, has been reassuring the people of Great Britain on the question of earthquakes. He says that in the course of a single year the earth is visited probably 30,000 earthquakes, of which only about six or seven occur in Great Britain. These earthquakes, he says, represent the settlement of old fault lines. But in countries like Japan and the Himalaya region, the process of mountain upheavals is still going on. Japan is growing bigger—emerging as it were from the ocean. The Himalayas, too, are getting higher. Hence the severe earthquake shocks recorded from time to time by his instruments. Happily, he says, Great Britain has settled down to a period of quiescence.

The Right Rev. George Strossmeyer, D.D., Bishop of Drakovo and Apostolic Administrator of Servia, who died the other day at the age of ninety, was the foremost representative of the Croatian race and the boldest exponent of its particular aspirations, the champion of its interests and the cultivator of the national literature and customs, which he wished to preserve against the encroachments of the Magyar and German elements in the Empire of Austria. Monsignor Strossmeyer was a prominent figure in the Vatican Council of 1867-1870, where his eloquence earned for him the title of "First Orator of Christendom." If we remember rightly Strossmeyer was the most eloquent of the opposers of the Infallibility Decree which in 1870 was passed by the Vatican Council. Strossmeyer did not leave the church.

The London Presbyterian, speaking of the Torrey-Alexander campaign at Brixton, Eng., says the most encouraging feature of the work is the fact that the Christian people and the young converts are engaging heartily in personal work for souls. Yesterday afternoon a bright-faced lad of fourteen years of age told how he had accepted Christ a week before and had since led three other boys to a knowledge of his new-found Saviour. With hundreds of people pleading earnestly with God for a mighty outpouring of His Holy Spirit, and speaking to people about their soul's welfare in homes and shops and even on the streets, a great awakening is sure to be the outcome. It is personal work that tells in evangelistic services. This is a point that cannot be too forcibly impressed upon evangelists and Christian workers and Christian people generally. Following up faithful preaching and persevering prayer it must bring showers of blessings upon the people.