

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

It would be well to watch those who say they do not make any mistakes to see if they do anything that is worth while.

Some who are regarded as good by others and as consistent by themselves are strangely prone to be inactive in Christian work.

In 1853 fifty-one out of every 1,000 marriages in England and Wales were performed by Roman Catholics priests, but in 1897 the number had sunk to forty one in every 1,000.

Every man who does not want to be narrow should make a business of fighting his own prejudices by giving a full measure of truth and justice to other men's opinions and thoughts. Prejudice puts one in a very self-complacent state of mind; but it is often unfair, narrow and unfruitful.

A good religious newspaper, with pure family reading and news from the Lord's cause in all lands, is an unspeakable blessing in every home. Better give us some petty indulgence which may cost ten times as much a year as a good religious paper, and have the paper in the home for young and old alike to read in spare moments.

Christianity is a religion of truth and fact, hence it is a religion of certainty. It is not a philosophy without reference to facts. It is a vast, divine fact. This is true outwardly and inwardly. As an experience in the soul Christianity has all the certainty that any other of the facts of consciousness can possibly have. Experience is the supreme test of Christianity. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Rev. C. M. Sheldon, who knows nothing about editing a daily paper, is going to show the editors this week how Jesus would edit a paper, says the Christian Observer. Some other minister should show the lawyers the Christ-like way of practicing law. Others should show the Christ-like way of running locomotives or building bridges or making machinery. Seriously, the experiment cannot be expected to accomplish any good result.

As cigarette smoking is destroying the life and energy of so many school-boys, we give the following from the general freight agent of one of our largest railroads: "Among the 200 clerks in my office 32 are cigarette smokers. Eighty-five per cent. of the mistakes occurring in the office are made by the 32. The cigarette smokers average two days off per month, while others but one-half day off. The natural conclusion is that 32 young men are holding positions deserved by better men."

The late D. S. Ford had such an abnormal love of privacy that, had he not been a practical and successful man, question would have been raised concerning his sanity. The firm name under which the Youth's Companion was published was entirely fictitious. He did his business as much as possible through others; and even in the church which he attended and helped more than any other person he is said to have almost effaced his own personality, "carrying on the largest religious and benevolent enterprises through the agency of others."

It is reported, says the Michigan Presbyterian that Rev. Morgan Wood of Toronto, finding that the political climate of Canada does not agree with his health, is about to return to the United States. Detroit always has many reasons for thankfulness, too numerous to mention. Rev. Morgan Wood goes to Cleveland, not to Detroit.

The British Government is not only expending \$50,000 a day for the immediate relief of the famine sufferers in India, who number about 5,000,000, but is planning an irrigation system for that district of India which will necessitate an outlay of nearly \$1,000,000. There is still need for much help from the people of America.

Charles M. Schwab, President of the Carnegie Steel Company, is thirty-seven years old. He has charge of 45,000 men and has a salary of about \$100,000 per annum. He commenced as a common workman in the Carnegie shops and entirely through his own efforts has reached his present position of trust and responsibility.

An old Scotchman of Boston used to say, "I'm open to conviction; but I'd like to see the man that can convince me." Old Minister Wells, the predecessor of the Rev. Dr. Storrs, of Braintree, Massachusetts himself a Scotchman, used to say—"It behoveth a Scotchman to be right; for if he be wrong, he will be forever and eternally wrong."

Our missionaries, we believe, use sometimes water, and sometimes the juice of the cocoanut in the place of wine at the communion service. The South Congregational Church, Boston, U. S. A., of which Dr. Edward Everett Hale is minister, has recently adopted the use of water for wine. There has been much comment on this bold departure from the custom.

The editor of the 'Diary of the War,' in the British Weekly, says, under date of Feb. 22: "Sir Wilfrid Laurier's tribute to the heroic sons of Canada who have fallen in the war will be read with universal admiration. Has the Empire any wiser statesman, any nobler son, than the French-Canadian Premier? People are saying this morning, 'What honor will be great enough for Sir Wilfrid Laurier, when the war is over?'"

Even in priest-ridden Ecuador the light is breaking. The Congress of the Republic has passed some laws recently removing authority from the delegates of the Pope, decreeing that no papal bull shall be promulgated without the consent of the State Council, restricting Church property and forbidding the collection of parish and funeral taxes. This last law is a serious one, for the papal pocket-nerve is much the most sensitive.

A few months have passed since Mr. A. was said and printed by our R. C. brethren of the cogent logic of Dr. Da Costa, an Anglican clergyman who joined the Church of Rome. We are sorry to hear that the repose he expected to find has failed him. He cannot believe in the stories in the Apocrypha. Yet these the Council of Trent and the Pope vouch, for as the veritable infallible word of God. So poor. Da Costa is again tossed on the stormy sea of doubt.

Whisky hawking seems to be on the increase in Glasgow, and the police are doing their best to keep it in check. Several penalties have been inflicted in several cases where parties have been apprehended and brought before the Magistrates. The inference from these cases is that a good deal of illegal traffic in the shape of shebeening still exists, and it is some comfort to know that the police are having their attention directed to it.

Lent is now being observed by our brethren of the English Church and the Church of Rome. There is no authority in Holy Scriptures says the Presbyterian Witness requiring any one to observe Lent. It is not an ordinance of the Lord. It is not bound on any one's conscience by the authority of God. But when Christians feel that they should fast it is surely allowable that they should do so. Fasting may prove to them a means of grace. It is also proper at all times to give up hurtful luxuries, and foolish pleasures and amusements. The very best "Lent" we know of in these days is to share our bread with the starving Hindus. This will be more pleasing to the Lord than many genuflections, and much bowing down of heads like bulrushes.

The system of delusion which loves to be known as Christian Science claims to have to its credit scores of thousands of cases of persons whose lives have been saved by its means. Now we wish to say, says the Herald and Presbyter, after years of careful inquiry and consideration, that we do not believe there has ever been a single case of recovery by means of this system except in such nervous conditions as hypochondria or hysteria, or where the patient would have recovered if left entirely without any sort of treatment, as animals recover from sickness. At the same time, we are assured that they have been great numbers of deaths that need not have occurred had the unfortunate sick received proper medical attention, chargeable to the false teachings of Mrs. Eddy. Many have been made to suffer in soul and body, but Mrs. Eddy and her practitioners have made money, and we suppose they are happy.

The controversy between Mr. St. George Mivart and Archbishop Vaughan has assumed an acute phase, and Mivart has appealed to the Pope. The difference between that and the McGiffert case is something striking. Yet all possible odium is heaped upon Presbyterianism for its course in the McGiffert matter while the tyranny of the Archbishop is taken by the press as a matter of course. Mivart is a distinguished scientist. He does not accept the Bible according to the Catholic interpretation of its mechanical inspiration. The Catholic Bible it must be remembered, contains all the wild and puerile tales of the Apocrypha, which are not only an affront to ordinary intelligence, but which never formed a part of the Canon of Scripture. It is easy to see from Mivart's position that the ordinary Protestant interpretation, as to the six days of creation, the universality of the flood, and the whole question of the relation between material science and the Scripture would give him ground for accepting both the truths of science and the truths of Revelation. But the Archbishop is inexorable, and unless Leo can find some way out for the distinguished heretic or rather some way for him to remain in, he will be excommunicated. We have great confidence, however, in the diplomatic capacity of His Holiness, and Mr. Mivart may be permitted to die as good a Catholic as he is a Scientist.