

Dominion Presbyterian

Devoted to the Interests of the Family and the Church

\$1.50 per Annum

MONTREAL, TORONTO, WINNIPEG

Single Copies, 5 Cents

Correspondents will please note that all letters should be addressed The Dominion Presbyterian, 232 St. James St., Montreal.

Note and Comment

It is estimated that 25,000 Koreans found relief from disease and suffering last year in Christian hospitals.

Bishop Tucker has ordained five more native deacons in Uganda. The Native Church of Uganda now has fifteen clergy, as well as some hundreds of lay teachers, whom it entirely supports.

The Congo telegraph line extends from the mouth of the Congo 800 miles to Kwamouth, at the junction of the Kasai and Congo Rivers. It is expected that this line will ultimately extend across Central Africa.

Florence Nightingale recently passed her eightieth birthday. Though in feeble health, she is still able to pursue many of her old interests, as nurses, hospital authorities, and sanitary reformers all the world over, and especially in India, can bear witness.

One missionary in Japan reports that the picture cards with Scripture texts, which are sent out by the Sunday-schools are very useful. The interest of a whole family may be traced to one of these cards which was carried home by a little girl.

A Carmelite missionary in Bagdad announces a quite unusual conversion and baptism some months since, says the Tablet—that of Yezidi, of the age of thirty—one of the strange sect of the "Devil Worshipers" well known to readers of travels in Persia and Asia Minor. The sect is spread over ancient Kurdistan, Mesopotamia, Upper Armenia, parts of Persia and even Russia. Like the Manicheans, the Yezidis acknowledge two principles—good and evil—but adore only the latter. Out of respect, or awe, for the evil spirit, they will not even pronounce any word beginning with the sound "sh," which is the initial of his name, Shetan (Satan).

Direct mail service between Britain and Newfoundland has been resumed. The packets leave Liverpool on alternate Fridays.

It is a mistake to say there are no Sunday papers in England to-day. There are many, but they are not Sunday editions of the great dailies.

The influence of Christian medical work upon the minds of the Chinese is a point emphasized by Dr. Virginia C. Murdock, of Peking. They can understand it as intended to benefit themselves when they can not comprehend why a missionary should preach, except to gain merit for himself.

Lord Kitchener is about to revisit England. In a letter thanking the Lord Mayor for the Mansion House fund in aid of the Gordon Memorial College, he states that the educational advantages thus afforded to the people of the Soudan will make them look upon all Englishmen in the future as their benefactors and well-wishers. From numerous conversations with the natives on the subject, it was clear that their feelings are those of absolute amazement at the noble generosity of the British public. The Sirdar contemplates an autumn campaign for the capture of the Khalifa, in which no British troops will be engaged.

France is now "the most drunken nation in Europe." "Frenchmen," says M. Claretie, "are becoming the maddest alcohol drinkers in the world." They consume per capita yearly 14 quarts of alcohol. Owing to the destruction of the grape vines by a parasite, liquor dealers are placing on the market various chemical concoctions labeled wine, and these poisonous drinks are rapidly performing their deadly work among all classes of people. Added to this the use of absinthe is becoming alarmingly prevalent. Students drink it as their daily tonic, and the dreadful habit is fastening itself upon the hardy fisher folk, the sturdy, robust Bretons and Normans, whose health and strength is being sapped by this crime-provoking demon, and whose children will be heirs to all the ills derived from drunken parents.

A special meeting of the Liverpool Presbytery was held to dispose of the call from St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, to Rev. Armstrong Black, co-pastor with Rev. Dr. Muir at Egremont. At the outset a cordial welcome home was given to Dr. Watson. Mr. Black having intimated the receipt of a call from Toronto, Dr. Munro Gibson, as representing St. Andrew's congregation, made a statement expressing his belief that Mr. Black ought to accept the call from Canada. Mr. Black intimated that it was his wish to accept the call and consequently tendered his resignation of the co-pastorate of the Egremont Church. Dr. Muir expressed the regret of the congregation at the prospect of losing Mr. Black's services. On the motion of Dr. Watson, seconded by Rev. W. Hutton, and supported by Rev. Dr. Johnstone, it was resolved, "That in view of Rev. Armstrong Black accepting the call to St. Andrew's, Toronto, the Presbytery accept his resignation."

The Scotsman denounces in strong terms the treatment of the Presbyterian soldiers in India by the authorities. It appears they are often not allowed to worship in the military chapels built by the Government with public money, because those places have been "consecrated" for Anglican worship; and the brave Scottish warriors, among the noblest men in the army, are compelled to worship in a disused theatre, or a barrack room, or the open air, or are deprived of worship altogether. Dr. Mitchell reported the matter to the General Assembly in Edinburgh, and was followed by Principal Story, in a fiery and eloquent speech. He took up the impregnable ground that the Presbyterian Church was the Established Church of Scotland, therefore Presbyterians had as much claim of right as Episcopalians; that the Highlanders and other Presbyterian soldiers were foremost in every campaign that has made or kept the Empire, therefore it was scandalous to insult their religion in such manner; that "consecration" gave no sacredness to stone and lime. Elders of high rank in the army spoke in similar terms of indignation. And the demand was unanimously made that the Church of Scotland shall prosecute this matter in Parliament and out of it till the shameful wrong is redressed.