

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

The idea of uniting New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island into one province is again being discussed.

The Manitoba Legislature has passed a Bill increasing license fees and increasing the present restrictions on the sale of liquor.

The Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the construction of three huge canals in the Punjab. The total length of the three will be 2714 miles.

The American Bible Society, of New York, has begun printing the American Revised Version of the Bible, and hopes to issue a cheap edition about the middle of March.

Massey hall, Toronto, was packed on the occasion of the public reception tendered to Hon. J. P. Whitney and the members of his cabinet by the Conservatives of that city.

As a result of lectures delivered by Father Moran, Roman Catholic, of New York, 500 persons have signed the total abstinence pledge at Sydney Mines, N.S. That is a good kind of revival.

Rev. Dr. Monro Gibson, London, has contributed a volume to the "Little Books on the Devout Life" series, edited by Rev. F. B. Meyer, B.A., entitled, "The Devotional Use of the Holy Scriptures."

Bishop Carmichael, in the Anglican synod, Montreal, strongly approved Mr. Chamberlain's work for the consolidation of the empire. He characterized Mr. Chamberlain as the business man of the empire.

Rev. Father O'Handly, formerly of Brantford, and late of St. Mary's Roman Catholic cathedral, Hamilton, has married Miss Noyes of that city. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. Alex. Gilray, Presbyterian minister.

The Presbyterian Indian Commission which has been investigating the conditions of the religious institutions on the reserves in western Canada, have decided to recommend the abolition of Indian boarding schools to the General Assembly.

Rev. Robert Ross, of Cruden, Aberdeenshire, father of the Church of Scotland, died on the 15th ult. He had the distinction of being over 60 years a minister of the Church of Scotland, and also of being father of that Church. He was in his 86th year.

Rheumatism seems to be perfectly unknown in Japan. A French observer attributes this to the sobriety of the people, their vegetarian diet and their great use of water. They not only drink large quantities of pure water, but take two or three baths daily throughout the year.

The Revells announce a new Quaker story, "For a Free Conscience," which will be issued by them in the early spring. Dr. S. Weir Mitchell's "Hugh Wynne" demonstrated the romantic value of the persecuted Quaker, and the present author, J. C. Wood, as a "member of meeting" ought to know the life quite sufficiently to give a true picture.

Russia stands today, as she has done for centuries, remarks the Philadelphia Ledger, for policies and acts which are abhorrent to civilization—for tyranny, oppression, bigotry and persecution at home; for deceit, treachery, and broken pledges abroad. . . . Within her boundaries there is no such thing as religious or political freedom, no liberty of action, none of written thought or speech. . . . The Japanese Government is one in which her people have share and part, in which religion is neither proscribed nor prescribed, in which thought and speech are free, etc.

The Straits Settlements have the cheapest postoffice in the world. Postal cards available in the colony and to the Federated Malay States are sold at one-fifth of a penny each; the letter rate of postage throughout the same area is slightly more than a half-penny. The postage on letters to any place in the British Empire is four-fifths of a penny to the half ounce.

The Southwestern Presbyterian of New Orleans says it is a matter for general congratulation that during the year just closed the number of lynchings in the entire country was lower than in any year since 1885. During the month of November there was not a single case, in either North or South. It is to be hoped that this wave of crime has passed its crest and that very soon it will disappear forever.

In the United States last year, with a population of about 80,000,000 of people, there were 8,570 murders. In 1881, when there were 51,300,000 inhabitants, there were but 1,290 crimes of this class. Since 1881 there have been 129,000 homicides in the United States. Comparing the crimes with the number of the population, we find that in 1881 there was one murder for each 40,000 of population, while in 1903 there was one murder for each 8,900 of the population.

The world figures in connection with Christian Endeavour are very impressive. For example, last year more than 175,000 young people came into the Church from the ranks of the Christian Endeavour. What a mighty stream of vitalising force is being poured into the Church through the Endeavour movement! Large as this number may seem, it might have been greatly augmented had all the Churches recognized the mighty evangelising power that there is in this young people's organization.

With the new year all saloons were closed in Charlotte, North Carolina, much to the joy of friends of temperance. The way in which even the children regard it, says the Presbyterian Standard, and a powerful argument for prohibition as well, can be seen in the following conversation between a little six-year-old Charlotte girl and her mother a few days ago: "Mother are the saloons closed here?" "Yes, my dear, they are all closed." "And are they going to stay closed all the time?" "Yes, all the time; no more saloons in Charlotte." "Then I can go down street now on Saturday nights, can't I, mother?"

Prohibition of the liquor traffic by local option laws is growing much in favor in the United States. The area in which prohibition is enforced by this method is steadily increasing. The votes for the adoption of local prohibitory laws show a great and increasing host of citizens anxious to delocalize the deadly traffic. It is stated that throughout the United States last year fully fifty million voters declared in favor of prohibition. In Canada, too, the feeling for local prohibition is taking on new life—notably in Ontario. The underlying principle of the Canada Temperance Act and of the Nova Scotia license law, is prohibition by local option.

"Old Country" papers are devoting a great deal of space to the religious revival in Wales, which continues to spread and deepen. One paper says "a remarkable effect of the movement is the decrease of drunkenness and other offences, especially marked during the Christmas season. There are 40 per cent. fewer prisoners in Cardiff jail this year arrested for drunkenness than were arrested in the same area last year, and in the Aberdare and Rhondda Valleys there has been less drinking than for many years past. In the Rhymney district there has been no arrest for this offence during the past ten days, and other places also produce favourable reports. On Boxing Day less than half the usual number of people descended from the hills by the Taff Vale and Rhymney Railways into Cardiff." Here is another "indication" of the genuineness of the revival: "Striking evidence of the influence of the revival on the miners has also been forthcoming at a meeting of delegates of the western district

at Swansea. It was resolved that no more delegates' meetings be held in public-houses; that smoking be not tolerated; and that every influence be exerted to secure that federation lodges should be held at non-licensed houses. Application to open a new lodge was granted only on condition that it be not held at a public-house."

Rev. Dr. MacTavish, of Deseronto, in an article in the Presbyterian Banner, of Pittsburg, Pa., attributes the defeat of the Liberals in Ontario to two principal causes: One was the protest against the inevitable increase of barnacles which always cling to a party long in power. These became more insolent in their bearing, more defiant of the law and more callous to public opinion. Much of the electoral corruption was traceable to them, and so when the people had an opportunity of pronouncing judgment upon them at the polls they pronounced it in very emphatic terms. The other contributing cause was the alienation of a large number of prohibitionists.

The religious census—church going on the Sabbath—which was taken about a year ago by the London Daily News, is still the subject of comment in the newspapers. The superintendent of the work is quoted in the New York Observer as saying: "The outstanding lesson of the census is that the power of preaching is undiminished. Wherever there is the right man in the pulpit, there are few, if any, empty pews. By the 'right man' I do not mean a genius. On the contrary, the preacher may be an 'extraordinarily ordinary' man so long as he possesses strong convictions, keen sympathies, and a magnetic personality. He must have a large heart, and it is to be believed in by the people, a small salary."—This latter "qualification" seems to imply that many church-going people have very small souls.

A writer in the London Christian World, points out, that of the 40,000,000 of people in Japan it is estimated that less than 10,000,000 have heard the Gospel. Of these about 121,000, have accepted various faiths founded on interpretations of Christianity. They amount to one-half per cent. of the population. This number of Christians, comparatively small, has furnished men for high places who seem to have the full confidence of their countrymen. One Cabinet Minister, two members of the highest court, two Speakers of the Lower House of Diet, three Ministers of State, and quite a number of heads of departments of civil service have filled these important offices with great credit. In the First Diet, which is of recent date, beside the Speaker and Chairman of the whole, eleven other members were Christians out of 300 members comprising the body. Strange to say, in the army there are 155 Christian officers. This is about 3 per cent. of the number. Three of the great dailies of Tokio are conducted by Christian men, and a number of believers may be found on the regular staff of other papers.

In one of his recent letters Dr. Cuyler relates the following touching, almost pathetic incident: "A few years ago I visited Dundee, and preached in the pulpit of St. Peter's Church. After the service the Provost of the city introduced me to one of the few survivors of McCheyne's ministry. He was a grey-headed man of three score and ten, and spoke of the pastor of his youth with the most reverent love. The chief thing that he remembered was that McCheyne, a few days before his death, met him in the street, and, laying his hand upon his shoulder, said to him kindly, "Jamie I hope that all is well with your soul. How is your sick sister? I am coming to see her again shortly." That sentence or two had stuck to the old Christian for nearly half a century! McCheyne's hand was on the old man's shoulder yet. This little incident gave me a fresh insight into the secret of McCheyne's pastoral fidelity and personal power. I commend that incident to young ministers who undertake the work of a faithful pastor who keeps in touch with every member of his flock." How true it is that the memory of the righteous is precious.