

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

The Emperor of China and the Viceroy of India, between them, govern more than half the population of the world.

As an illustration of the vitality of the old Welsh language it is shown that it is still spoken by 85 per cent. of the population of Wales.

An unpublished overture by Mozart was found very recently and given a hearing at the Paris conservatoire. It is supposed to have been written by him while in Paris in 1778.

Extreme statements should be avoided in the discussion of any subject. They are liable to be misinterpreted and to work harm. Credit should be given to an antagonist for all the good he may possess or avow.

The death is announced of Rev. Geo. C. Needham, evangelist, who was at one time associated in christian work with Mr. D. L. Moody. He was a fine solid preacher and twice visited Nova Scotia about twenty five years ago, where he did effective evangelistic work. He died near Philadelphia, February 16.

Col. Grimm, a Russian army officer, has been condemned to death for selling Russian military secrets to a foreign Power. It is asserted that Col. Grimm, during ten years, has revealed to Germany every plan prepared by Russia in the eventuality of war between the two countries. Some sixty other arrests have been made.

A curious feature to travellers in the high roads of Norway is the great number of gates—upwards of 10,000 in the whole country—which have to be opened. These gates, which either mark the boundaries of the farms or separate the home fields from the waste lands, constitute a considerable inconvenience and delay to the traveller, who has to stop his vehicle and get down to open them.

It is reported that the Empress Dowager of China has issued a decree condemning the practice of foot binding, and declaring that hereafter the feet of Chinese girls shall be allowed to grow naturally. Perhaps her power does not extend far enough to effect such a change. The King of Korea, it will be remembered, tried to make the Korean men cut off their top-knots and wear foreign clothes, but was not powerful enough to enforce the change.

A clergyman in the North of Scotland, having finished his preparation for Sabbath duty, went on the Saturday afternoon to recreate himself by fishing in the river which flowed within a short distance of his manse.

Having caught a fine salmon, he was proceeding home with it when he met one of his parishioners to whom he said: "James, I've done a good day's work to day; I've finished my sermon, and I've caught a fine salmon." "Well, sir," said the parishioner, "for my part, I wud far raitther hae the salmon than the sermon."

Australia has adopted rules for securing the settlement of trade-union disputes by arbitration. There will be no preliminary investigations, the dispute being taken direct to the court, thus preventing delay and unnecessary expense. The court is composed of a judge of the Supreme Court as president, and two members selected from the employers and employees, respectively. The registrar can refer disputes to the court without the consent of either party. The court has power to declare the standard wage, and that any practice, usage, etc., shall become a common rule for all persons employed in the particular industry under review.

Prof. Alexander Agassiz is in charge of an expedition to the Maldive Islands in the Indian Ocean which has recently been sent from the Agassiz Museum at Harvard. Prof. Agassiz fitted out the expedition and is assisted by W. McM. Woodworth. They expect to find rare and beautiful coral formations and will gather an exhaustive collection as possible. A steamer was chartered at Colombo, Ceylon, from the British India Company, to transport the expedition to the southern part of the Indian Ocean, where the Maldive Islands lie. The islands of the Indian Ocean are the only group remaining which Mr. Agassiz has not examined in his explorations for the study of coral. The islands are remote and unfrequented, and it is expected that the expedition will prove fruitful. The work will occupy about two months.

The Presbyterian Banner of Pittsburg, Pa., concludes a strong plea for fair treatment of the Chinese by the people of the United States by saying: "Our present relations with China invite just treatment to its citizens. We won the confidence and gratitude of that country in her late tribulation, and are now in position to enter into closer commercial relations with her. Our Pacific Coast fronts on the same ocean that washes her shores, and a rich commerce may weave us into a community of interests. We are standing among the nations for an open door of trade and intercourse with that vast empire, and are ready to defend it with our might. Our Chinese policy at home should now be brought into harmony with this expanding policy abroad, and we should see that we do by the Chinese here as we would have them do by us there. This policy is in accordance with the truest statesmanship, with the brotherhood of man, and with the gospel of Christ." We commend the foregoing to those Canadians on the Pacific coast who are frantically pleading for the exclusion of the Chinese from Canada.

The opening of the Paris underground railroad—or something else—seems to have had a disastrous effect on the other transportation enterprises of that city. Until very lately there was little street railroad in Paris, but an omnibus system, worked by a single company, which, with transfers, covered the whole city, and was perhaps the most complete and efficient omnibus system the world has ever seen. On the eve of the 1900 World's Fair not only was the Metropolitan (underground) railroad built, but a considerable extension of street car lines was made, says the Railroad Gazette. It seems that a great deal of water was injected into the stock of most of the new enterprises, and naturally they have made short work of a large part of the omnibus traffic, which is hardly a twentieth century institution. The result, as inter-reted on the Paris stock exchange, is seen by the quotations for shares in October this year and last. Omnibus Company shares have fallen from 1,660 francs to 780; Thomson-Houston Company from 1,290 to 814; other tramway companies from 730 to 500, from 355 to 250, from 474 to 147, and from 590 to 345. On the other hand Metropolitan (underground) shares have risen from 533 to 574, and Parisian Electric from 252 to 261. Doubtless several of the street railroad companies whose shares have fallen so greatly are yielding good interest on the capital actually invested in them, and Omnibus Company shares, worth 1,660 last year and 780 this, are 500-franc shares; but this does not mitigate the fall to those who bought last year.

The British Museum has recently come into possession of a mummy which is generally believed by the experts, who have been privileged to examine it, to be the most ancient yet discovered. This addition is of unique value, in view of the fact that it conveys a more comprehensive idea of the origin of the ancient Egyptians than has ever yet been obtained from similar relics. Upon this point there has always been a wide divergence of opinion among archaeologists. The mummy was taken from a neolithic grave. It is the body of a man about 5 feet 9 inches in height. Upon the scalp is a remaining lock of hair which suggests that it was originally of a fair color. The hands and feet are small, and from the intellectual formation of his head it is conceded that he must have belonged to a superior race. The result of Egyptological investigation declares that the mummy is that of an aborigine of Egypt, which was conquered by an Asiatic invasion about 8000 B. C., and which afterward intermingled with the conquering race, thus constituting the foundation of the race known as Egyptians. The grave from which the body was taken out was an oval cavity in a sandstone rock, and covered with a number of large slabs of stone. Ranged round the body were the usual flints and earthenware pottery. It was found impossible to remove the grave of the body together with the mummy, so an exact replica of the tomb was made, and the body now reposes in a case in the Egyptian gallery of the museum in exactly the same position in which it was found.