

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Professor Marcus Dods has declined the Moderatorship of the United Free Church of Scotland.

Carrie Nation, the Kansas "joint smasher," announces the suspension of her paper, the Smasher's Mail, which was started about a year ago.

Lord Strathcona, if entirely recovered from his severe illness, has arranged to visit Aberdeen early in January to receive the freedom of the city.

Considerable alterations are proposed on Edinburgh Castle, and an effort is being made to prevent the new buildings spoiling the appearance of those at present existing.

It is now said that the recent warlike demonstration on the part of France against the Turk was more of an electioneering move in French internal politics than a mere piece of strenuous debt collecting.

The Journal and Messenger says of the President's message that it, "if published in a leading magazine, with the aid of good paper and print, would be rated high among the literary productions of the year."

The famine situation in parts of Russia is being improved. Much grain has been purchased and the amount that will be required, found less than had been estimated. There is, however, still great distress and urgent need of help.

For the first time since schism separated them the three divisions of Friends, or Quakers, popularly known as Orthodox, Hicksite and Wilburite, are to meet in conference in Philadelphia sometime during the coming month.

A sign of the times and an indication that some national legislation against anarchists is needed is found in the fact that the assassin of President McKinley was cheered and his act applauded in a public meeting of anarchists in Chicago last week.

John Alexander Dowie, the leader of the Dowieites, a faith cure sect in Chicago, has been sued by his brother for \$185,000, which the brother claims "Elijah II," as Dr. Dowie is known in Chicago, defrauded him out of during the past couple of years.

Miss Hobhouse who went to South Africa and wrote very unfavorably regarding the treatment of women and children in the concentration camps, on her return to that country was ordered deported. Her father threatens to bring suit against the authorities.

Birmingham metal workers are very busy upon the production of medals for the Coronation. It is probable that upward of ten million medals will be turned out of Birmingham workshops during the next six months to meet the demands from all parts of the empire.

A decree has been published in Germany preparing for the gradual abolition of slavery in German East Africa. Owners are compelled to allow two days weekly on which slaves can work for themselves, or to give them an equivalent of what they can earn.

The Western Theological Seminary reports a slight increase in enrollment. In each of the regular classes there are twenty students. Four ministers are taking post-graduate courses, making a total of sixty-four. The students are more deeply interested than usual in both Home and Foreign Missions.

The exhibit at the office of the Ontario Deputy Minister of Agriculture, of apples picked in the fall of 1900, and which are now in perfect condition, gives one a glimmering of the possibilities of cold storage in the way of keeping fruit from one year of plenteous crops to the next possibly of scarcity.

Maiwatchin, on the borders of Russia, is the only city in the world peopled by men only. The Chinese women are not only forbidden to live in this territory, but even to pass the great wall of Kailhan and enter into Mongolia. All the Chinese of this border city are exclusively traders.

Rev. Dr. Henry Vandyke, head of the English department of Princeton University, has accepted the call from the brick Presbyterian church in New York, to become minister in charge during the vacancy of the pastorate. In his letter of acceptance he refuses to accept any salary, though \$500 a month was offered.

In his recent speech at the breakfast to the Prince and Princess of Wales at the Guildhall, London, Premier Lord Salisbury admitted that Great Britain has many outspoken enemies, but he said that the support of her colonies is "worth infinitely more than all the contempt, and all the censure, she may receive from other nations."

The Government of New South Wales, Australasia, has passed in to law the Industrial Arbitration Bill, which not only compels reference of all disputes between employers and employees to a competent court, with power to enforce its orders and awards, but makes a strike or a lockout, before or pending such reference, a misdemeanor punishable by a fine or imprisonment.

The Swedish census shows the lowest death rate ever recorded by a civilized nation. During the last decade it has been 16.49 per 1000. Norway comes next, with 16.9, then England with 18.8. Thus the Scandinavians are now the healthiest race in the world. One hundred years ago the death rate of these countries was 26.22. Considering the differences in distribution of population which exist between Sweden and our own country, it cannot be said (observes "Science Siftings") that we, with so large a proportion of our people in crowded towns, come out very badly in comparison.

Mr. Colin McArthur, wall paper manufacturer, a respected Scottish resident of Montreal, died on Sunday at the age of 66 years. Deceased was a native of Glasgow, and for 16 years was associated with Wylie & Lochhead in that city. He commenced business in Montreal in 1879, and was very successful. Mr. McArthur was a Presbyterian, and an elder in St. Paul's Church.

Hon. Mr. Harty has written Jas. Wallace, M. A., of Queen's offering \$1,000 to the students fund for the erection of a convocation hall, on the understanding that the building will be called the Grant hall. Mr. Harty makes kindly reference to the spirit of liberality that has prevailed at Queen's since its founding over sixty years ago, and to the courtesies always extended to Roman Catholics.

The adoption by federated Australia of a flag of its own has aroused considerable discussion in London, particularly among the naval and military men. Admiral de Horsey for example says: "The ancient British flag is good enough for the whole empire. Why should Australia adopt a flag which, however artistic, must rank second to that of the empire, and which no foreign warship visiting Australia could ever properly salute?"

The King has decided to have the interior of Balmoral Castle entirely re-decorated, and all the principal rooms will be re-furnished. Queen Victoria never would let anything be altered at Balmoral, says "Truth," and most of the furniture is well worn and old fashioned, while the tartan hangings are very shabby. It is intended by the King to reside at Balmoral four or five weeks every autumn, and at other periods of the year. The Castle will be an occasional residence of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Queen Wilhelmina's dream of love has ended in disappointment. A year ago she was the ideal of hope and happiness— young, beautiful, the idol of her people, and in love. She married the man of her choice. No more romantic royal wedding has occurred since that of Queen Victoria. Now she is reported to be broken in health and discouraged. Her husband is said to be a drunken brute, and to have struck and injured her. It is said that he would be mobbed if he should show himself upon the streets of Amsterdam.

In a speech at a banquet in London last Thursday the Prince of Wales spoke of the relations between the motherland and the colonies, of the impression he received during his recent tour of the Empire. Of Canada he said: "In the journey from ocean to ocean, marvellous in its comfort and organization, we were enabled to see something of its matchless scenery, the richness of its soil and the boundless possibilities of that vast and but partly explored territory. We saw, too, the success which has crowned the efforts to weld into one community the people of the two great races."