

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Grippe is very prevalent in Montreal and Toronto at present, and it is feared it may become epidemic.

"They are being followed up," is still the message from Kitchener. The Boers will soon tire of that following up and then will give up.

The crust of the earth under Japan must be comparatively thin, judging by the number of earthquake shocks in that country. They average 500 a year.

There is a strong movement being developed in France to prohibit the manufacture and sale of absinthe, the consumption of which has doubled in the past few years.

As to divorces in the United States, take the following: Out of 10,000 marriages in England there are only 19 divorces, in France 127, in Germany 157, in the United States 444.

At a meeting of the National Women's council executive in Montreal, it was decided to hold the next annual meeting of the National council in London, Ontario, in the second week in May.

The publishers' Circular of London thinks that the \$25,000 which Kipling received for his new story of 60,000 words is the highest sum ever paid to an English author for a story of similar length.

The Board of Poor Law Guardians of Weobly, England, has declined on patriotic grounds, to accept a gift of pictures and books from Mr. William T. Stead for the workhouse, forwarded through Lady Henry Somerset.

The Protestant citizens of Montreal are to present Rev. Father O'Leary with a handsome and costly gold chalice and paten. There is also an effort being made to have him appointed chaplain to the Senate in room of the late Dean Lauder.

That, by a decree of the German Emperor, English should have been put above French as a necessary study in the gymnasias, French being relegated to the optional section, is a significant fact for the educational and commercial world to contemplate.

An interesting ceremony took place in St. Cuthbert's Hall, Edinburgh, when Professor Flint, of Edinburgh University, was presented by his former students, and also by some of those now attending his classes, with his portrait in oils, by Sir George Reid, P.R.S.A.

Two worthy denominational representatives were recently added to the trustees of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, Rev. E. Humphries, New Bedford, Mass., of the Primitive Methodist Church, and Rev. Alfred Gandier, of Toronto, the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Professor Foster, in his "Fundamental Ideas of the Roman Catholic Church," says: "Rome claims the right of directing the schools of every nation, including our own. The struggle that has arisen in the United States can never be settled except by the Church's or the State's abandonment of the right to govern. The problem of the schools is, therefore, an irreconcilable one."

Earl Grey says that one of the dangers of our civilisation was the growing physical weakness of our town-bred population. He should not be content until there were organized permanent industrial camps in the healthiest places in the country and at the seaside, where town-bred boys and girls would be able to go for a fortnight or three weeks every year, and so get the benefit of what the report called, "God's fresh air."

A recent storm which passed over the south of England overthrew an upright and crosspiece of one of the great trilithons at Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain, and the cross-piece of this wonderful supposed Druidical monument was broken by the fall. In 1897 other stones fell.

During the year 1900 the immigrants to Canada numbered 50,465, all told; of these 16,121 are English, 983 Irish, 1,734 Scotch, and 31,627 foreigners. They are all welcome; but the sooner all of those who come from foreign countries are thoroughly Canadianized the better.

The police authorities of Atlanta are alarmed over the rapid growth of the cocaine habit among the negroes of that city. Similar reports from New Orleans and other Southern cities indicate that the South is suffering from an evil that has made some headway in many other localities.

According to the late authorities it is a mistake to suppose that the Indian population of the United States is decreasing. It is declared to be slowly growing now that the tribal wars are at an end and the red man has learned not to get into trouble with Uncle Sam. Poor Lo is becoming a self-supporting agriculturist.

The Department of Finance is just about to issue a new \$4 bill. It gives the portrait of Lord Minto in the uniform of a Brigadier-General of Volunteers, also that of Lady Minto. The centre bears a scene on Sault Ste. Marie canal. The back of the new note contains a picture of the parliament buildings. Altogether this issue will be distinctly handsome.

One of Mrs. Eddy's latest claims that she is divinely inspired is made as follows: "I should blush to write of 'Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures' as I have were it of human origin, and I, apart from God, its author. But, as I was only a scribe echoing the harmonies of heaven in divine metaphysics, I cannot be supermodest in my estimate of the Christian Science text-book."

The British Postal Department Commission, which has been inquiring into the subject of wireless telegraphy for several months, will shortly report in favor of the earliest possible adoption of the Marconi system. The Commission is also arranging for the purchase of Marconi patents, and is negotiating with France and Germany relative to their attitudes towards the Marconi inventions.

The artesian bore has been working wonders in Australia of late years. In many places, when the rain does fall, it has a knack of getting away underground, and now by the aid of the artesian system a practical method has been found of following it down and retrieving it. In the Kyoona district of Queensland lately a bore was worked down as far as 2,500 feet before the precious water was struck, but once the tap was opened a steady flow of over a million gallons a day was obtained.

Lord Mount Stephen, says the Glasgow Christian Leader, who is giving £25,000 to clear off the debt on Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, began life as a herd boy. Then he entered a drapery establishment, afterwards migrating to Glasgow, and thence to London. At the age of twenty he went to Montreal. Fifty years have passed, and he has long been a wealthy man, and great in the commercial world of Canada. He has been president of the Bank of Montreal, president of the St. Paul and Manitoba Railway, and head of the Canadian Pacific Railway. In 1891 he was created Baron Mount Stephen. He is a native of Dufftown, where his father was a carpenter, and more than a few citizens of the Banffshire town are flourishing to-day in Canada, as a result of his success and advice.

A railroad to Mecca, the holy! Well, that does indicate that even the sultan is learning something, and that Turkey feels the movement of the age. But a railroad is an open door for the world. How long will the prophet's tomb continue to be the sacred place for Mohammedan saints, with daily trains coming in from the outer world?

It is announced that the Church of England Temperance Society will take steps to secure the introduction of two measures of temperance reform in the new Parliament—one called the "Children's Bill," to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors to children under sixteen; and the other a "Sunday Three Hours Bill," founded on the minority recommendation of Lord Peel's report, allowing public houses to be open on Sundays only for one hour in the middle of the day and for two during the evening.

The other day Lord Wolseley, speaking to shorthand students, said that he had written shorthand all his life, and had invariably found it of the greatest possible benefit. He wrote a very clumsy and old-fashioned system, but it had been of immense use to him for making notes when pressed for time. It was also of very great assistance because no one but himself had the slightest chance of being able to read what he wrote, and thus he was able to leave important memoranda upon his desk without the slightest fear that they would be understood.

Work is to be resumed upon the construction of the Cape to Cairo railroad. It has now been decided to deviate from the route originally surveyed by travelling via Wanki. The decision has been made in view of the fact that the bridging of the Zambesi River will be much facilitated at this point, and also that rich coal fields have been discovered in the vicinity of Wanki. Wanki lies about two hundred miles distant from Bulawayo in a north-westerly direction. The coal is stated to be of great calorific value, and mines are to be sunk immediately.

Some interesting valuable additions have recently been made to the Zoological Gardens. One is a lizard possessing two tails. As is well known the lizard avoids capture by leaving its tail in the hands of its captor, the caudal appendage ultimately growing again. In this instance it appears that the tail of the lizard became damaged by some means, but was not detached. A second extremity protruded from the wound, which healed, so that now the lizard possesses two tails. Another unique addition is the three striped California tree boa. This is the first specimen of this reptile that has come into the hands of the Zoological Society, while the British Museum does not even possess an example of the species. The largest white wolf in captivity also arrived a few weeks ago. A small colony of the tree frogs of Cape Colony has been introduced representing a variety of colors coinciding with the hues of the particular trees which they infest.

The reported horse-whipping of a Cobourg clergyman turns out to have been a gross exaggeration. The London Advertiser, commenting on the alleged cause of the alleged assault, makes the following sensible observations:—As to the extent to which clergymen are wise in advertising to specific matters of this kind, it is difficult to say. Each case must be judged by itself. There is a good deal of specific sensational denunciation, which probably does little good in the long run, and is sometimes only a good advertisement for that which is attacked. As regards amusements generally, there are the two methods which may be employed by the preacher. One is to lay down hard and fast rules; the other is to endeavor to raise the moral atmosphere in general, and to inculcate correct principles, in the belief that right action will be apt to follow right thinking. We incline to believe the latter, in nine cases out of ten, is the most efficacious way.