

# Dominion Presbyterian

1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS

## Note and Comment.

Petitions presented to Parliament in favor of a Sabbath observance law number 1,847, and claim to represent 377,090 persons.

Mgr. Bruchesi, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Montreal, has warned the French Canadian newspapers not to publish reports of the details of murder trials under pain of excommunication.

The Canadian Pacific, in pursuance of its plan of spanning the continent with the best grade of heavy track, is preparing to lay 10,000 tons of 80 pound steel rails. Work in the West will be begun between Portage la Prairie and Brandon.

During the past ten or twelve years more than 300 Roman Catholic priests in France have abandoned the church of Rome. Many of them have become active evangelical workers. The wave of evangelism is sweeping with singular power over both France and Belgium.

Rev. Robert Quarterman Mallard, D. D., senior editor of the South-Western Presbyterian, New Orleans, died March 3rd, in the 74th year of his age. He literally died in harness. That journal says, "He filled a large place and will be missed."

Of the last meeting of the Torrey-Alexander evangelistic campaign in Birmingham, Eng., the Methodist Times says: "No one who was present at Bingley Hall last Sunday night will ever forget the sight, or doubt again the power of the Gospel to conquer the hearts and intellects of men."

The strong steel bulkheads of the American liner New York, and of the Peninsular and Oriental steamship Assaye, saved the lives of more than 1,100 persons a couple of weeks ago, when the two vessels crashed together, head-on, in a thick fog in the English channel. The bows of both vessels were broken off, but their forepeak bulkheads held.

The latest vice in India is the cocaine habit. It has been the subject of legal restrictions for some time, and there have been many persecutions for evasion of the law. Pernicious indulgence in drugs other than alcohol is increasing even in Canada, and it will soon be necessary to cover a wider field with legal restrictions.

It is stated that of the 6,660 electric cars of Great Britain and Ireland ninety per cent are double-deck and ten per cent single-deck, while of the 3,517 new cars in the cities having a hundred or more cars in use, ninety-four per cent are double-deck. Is there not a hint here for the Montreal and Toronto Street Car Companies where overcrowding is so constantly complained of? Would not "double decker" cars relieve the situation?

The British Premier is to appoint a Royal Commission to deal with Ritualism in the Church of England. This is precaution for the General Election. A great many Conservatives notably in Liverpool, and magistrates resent the coming in of Romish practices. The bishops and clergy are more tainted than the laity. The Royal Commission will not do very much to check the evil which has been growing for years.

The man who has held the longest pastorate in the history of Canadian Baptists, Rev. Chipman Morse, D. D., of Digby Neck, N.S., has recently resigned, after serving the same church for nearly sixty-three continuous years. Dr. Morse, though he ministered chiefly to humble fisher folk, was a scholarly and thoughtful preacher. The Canadian Baptist says: "In these days of frequent changes in the pastorate it is refreshing to come across such an instance of patience and persistence in the one field of labor. Who can measure the cumulative influence of such a pastorate as this?"

The Union Committees of the Northern Presbyterian and Cumberland Churches in the United States have agreed to recommend the consolidation of the two bodies under the name of the larger, and on the basis of the revised Confession of Faith and the New Creed. This will have to be approved by both General Assemblies, and then by the Presbyteries, but there is strong probability that union will be accomplished without a hitch. Without doubt the creed revision greatly favored the cause of union.

The fact that while the population of London has increased about half a million in seventeen years, the church attendance has decreased 150,000—the loss falling almost entirely on the Church of England—is regarded by the Christian Intelligencer as evidence that the latter is losing its hold on the masses. In the meantime, the Free Churches are attracting larger numbers to their services, until now they about equal in attendants those of the State Church. Commenting upon the statistics furnished by the the recently taken census of attendance in the London churches to which the Christian Intelligencer's note refers—the Lutheran Observer remarks: "This state of affairs shows clearly that the State Church is losing ground, and that disestablishment at no very distant day will be the result."

After all, the world is getting better, and Christians are becoming more Christ-like. An illustration of this, we take the following item from a British Methodist Journal: "Dr. Moule, the Bishop of Durham, was present at a meeting held in the Park Terrace Presbyterian Church, Gateshead, recently, and delivered an interesting address, which he prefaced by referring to the sense of privilege with which he stood there in response to a most kind invitation. It was a great thing to realize their common centre in the Lord Jesus Christ. It was He who

was the magnetic centre of all his servants, and when one occasion after another made them a little more realize their part and lot together, it was good for the individual and good for the community." Though Christian churches may be "distinct as the billows" what is to hinder them being "one as the sea" in the work of giving the Gospel under the Saviour's great commission, to all the world?

Three branches of the Methodists of Great Britain are negotiating for a union—the United Methodists, the Methodist N. W. Connexion and the Bible Christian Methodist. At a meeting of 200 ministers and members, all the speakers agreed that by union more work could be done, and without any more cost. The Belfast Witness says: "A united community would more successfully contend against the two great evils—Sacerdotalism in the Episcopal church and Materialism in general society. The movement for reunion in the Colonies of Australia and New Zealand has stimulated this effort at home."

Miss Mary McKillop, daughter of Donald and Ann McKillop, was born in Inverness in the province of Quebec, Canada, January 12, 1848. She was married to Peter McKenzie, July 2, 1879, at Inverness, Canada, moving the same year to Tarkio, Missouri, U. S., where they have since resided. She died Tuesday evening February 16th, from a stroke of paralysis. An obituary note in the Herald and Presbyterian says: "Mrs. McKenzie was a consistent and faithful member of the Presbyterian Church, having united in 1852. She was a gentle and lovable woman, characterized at all times with a sweet, Christian grace, which endeared her to all. Her Saviour was very real to her, adorning her with a beautiful life, manifested in her home, among her friends and in her church, whose services she always attended with a steadfast uniformity. Her husband, Peter McKenzie, who is a faithful elder of the church, survives her."

The city of Rochester, N.Y., says the Christian Guardian, has a remarkable record for the size and number of its Bible-classes. There are no less than forty men's Bible-classes in that city, and the largest of them has over a thousand members on its roll. And the members of these classes are not leisured people, but clerks and workmen, who have little spare time at their command and yet are found from Sunday to Sunday spending an hour together in the study of God's Word, according to the syllabus of the International Sunday-school Lessons. It must be one of the most impressive sights possible to see one of these great Bible-classes at work. One of the most hopeful signs of the times is the remarkable attention now being given to Bible study. For, as a recent writer says: "The man who eats the Bible daily gets the Bible into his nerves and bones, his thoughts come to have the biblical flavor, and his life carries an atmosphere like unto that of the men through whom the Bible came."