

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

It is announced that Melbourne will be the capital of Confederated Australia. It is said to be a beautiful city.

The Bishop of Albany declares that Roman Catholicism in the United States has made enormous progress.

Moody argued that summer is the best time to reach the masses, because they love to be out doors. He advocated city churches having roof auditoriums.

Mr. Gilbert Parker, the novelist, has been elected at Gravesend, securing a Unionist majority of 738 over the Liberal candidate, Mr. Hildebrand Harmsworth.

Tibet is larger than France, Germany and Spain combined, and has a population of 6,000,000. It is ruled over by Dalai Lama, who acknowledges only a nominal allegiance to China.

Mr. George M. Brown, son of the late Hon. Geo. Brown, was elected to the British House of Commons as a Liberal in Centre Edinburgh, defeating Dr. Conan Doyle, Unionist.

The American Catholic Church, says the United Presbyterian, has not a single missionary in foreign lands. Evidently the job of proselyting Protestants in the United States is a sufficiently large contract.

The result of the Galveston storm are thus summarised in a press despatch:—"Deaths, 6,000; injured, 3,000; homeless, 10,000. The number of looters who have been executed during the past week is 125."

The Citizen will not come to the conclusion that Mr. Galt is incompetent because the aldermen have so "resolved." On matters of the kind the majority of the aldermen are not competent to form an opinion.

British Columbia and Ontario fruit is fast driving Californian fruit out of the Canadian Northwest market. This is as it should be. But to make the best results possible, the fruit must always be carefully selected, packed, and marketed in time.

It is said that China will have to pay indemnities, not only for the loss of property and the loss of life in the recent Boxer uprising, but also for the expenditure which the great nations have incurred in protecting their own interests at Peking and elsewhere.

It would be difficult to determine whether the Chinese or the Russians have the advantage in the extremities of barbaric cruelty as perpetrated in the savage exhibitions in China. The Russians seem to excel in the grossness of their inhuman practices.

Through the union of the Free and United Presbyterian Churches the Edinburgh Divinity Hall of the United Free Church will be the New College on the Mound. This college was the first of the colleges instituted in connection with the Free Church.

The sixtieth session of Queen's University opened on 31st inst. The registrar reports that there was a much larger attendance than on any other opening day in the history of the college. The prospects are for a largely increased attendance in all faculties.

The Ottawa Journal pertinently asks: Honestly, now, gentlemen of the local combine, was that extra dollar necessary? Had there been an independent company in the field, would you have put it on? It is safe to say that both queries would be answered in the negative.

So many are regretting this war! It is quite affecting to read the lament of the whisky exporters. Listen:—"The dreary lengths to which the war is being drawn out is proving very irritating to those houses who are ready to make shipments there at the earliest opportunity." What is Lord Roberts thinking about?

A report from Skagway says that the passenger rates from Skagway have been advanced to \$60 first-class and \$50 second class, and from Dawson to Skagway \$75 first class and \$50 second class. It is not the railway company that has put up the prices, but the steamboat companies. There is no interest in the freight rates.

The new assessment roll for the levying of taxes in 1901 was completed in Toronto last week, and the figures give gratifying evidence of growth and progress. The total assessment of the city amounts to \$128,954,144, which is an increase over last year of \$3,218,135. Of that sum \$131,557 represents the increase in the value of land. The population of the city is given as 199,043, an increase of 6,136.

Here is something that may be interesting to Principal Dymond of the Brantford Institution for the blind:—"The work of blind women typewriters is one of the interesting features of the United States Treasury Department. It is said that their work is equal to that of the best operators, and as much is expected of them in diction and copying as of those who have their eyesight. So satisfactory are the services of these blind clerks that it is proposed to give opportunity to many more next year.

While the new Electric Railway in London is working smoothly and without the slightest hitch the Underground Railway in Paris is experiencing many vicissitudes. There have been several accidents, fortunately unattended with any loss of life. The other day recorded a veritable chapter of disasters. First the current broke down, and the train had to stand still in the tunnel for about an hour and a half. A little later the first carriage of a train running from Vincennes to Port Maillot caught fire at the Bastille Station, through the derailment of the end carriage of a train. There was a panic among the passengers, of whom about ten were bruised and shaken.

The various Protestant denominations and those staunch Presbyterians, the Waldenses, are making an impression in Rome. Hear this wail from the Vatican itself, yea, from the very throat of His Holiness:—"To all these causes of perversion" (such as books, professors' chairs and newspapers) "there has been added the insidious activity of heretical men, who, in conflict among themselves find accord only in traducing the supreme pontifical authority, the Catholic clergy and the dogmas of our holy religion, the meaning of which, and still more the august beauty, they are unable to understand." When the Waldenses were being massacred they did find some difficulty in appreciating the "august beauty" of Romanism.

The Princess of Wales has presented to the London Hospital the wonderful apparatus which has been employed in Copenhagen for the cure of certain intractable skin diseases by means of light. As is well known, it is the chemical rays—the blue, violet and ultra-violet—which exert this curious beneficial effect. To use the apparatus the patients simply lie on couches, while the light of the sun, or, failing that, the rays from an electric arc lamp, are focused upon the affected part of the skin. To obviate the heat which is always generated by focusing the sun's rays in this manner, the rays undergo concentration and cooling by means of a curious "reversed telescope." The rock crystal lenses, which are impervious to heat rays, inclose a column of distilled water. The patient is submitted to this treatment for about an hour at a time, but the treatment being quite painless, not the slightest inconvenience is experienced, and the operation has been proved to be eminently successful.

At the Christian Endeavor convention at Guelph, Rev. Dr. Dickson, of Galt, the union editor, reported that the press of the province were in sympathy with the movement. Contributions dealing with endeavor work had been published by 142 papers during the year.

Nothing more pathetic is ever seen upon the streets of Toronto, says the Canadian Baptist, than the procession of vehicles conveying the sick children from the hospital on the Island to the building on College street. Seventy-five little sufferers passed up Yonge street the other day in carriages, and the crowds of pedestrians halted as the little sufferers passed along, many of them trying to look cheerful and happy notwithstanding their weakness and suffering.

The N. Y. Christian Intelligencer: A prominent and honored minister of our church recently said: In my attendance at church during this summer I have heard more than one clergyman change the "You" in the apostolic benediction to "Us." This turns the benediction into a prayer, and if it is still regarded as a benediction, it puts the officiating clergyman in the position of pronouncing a benediction upon himself. Speaking in his official character he speaks for the Lord, and should in the apostolic benediction always say "You," which is according to Scripture. For the same reason that he is speaking in his official character, a clergyman in announcing a hymn should never say, "Please sing," as if he was asking a favor. He might as well say, "Please let us pray." These suggestions may be of service to some of the younger men in the ministry, and perhaps to a few of the older ones as well.

Scotland evidently does not stand where it did in the matter of Sunday observance. The following extract is from the report of the last meeting of the Established Presbytery of Dundee:—"Rev. James Wilson said he had been supplied with statistics from Chief Constable Dewar as to the number of shops open in the city during Sunday, 2nd inst. He found that altogether no fewer than 597 shops were open. Of these 36 were ice-cream shops, 63 temporary bars and 268 for simple confections, while only 102 were of the kind which were perhaps necessary, chemists, dairies, etc., leaving 465 shops not necessary open in the city." The Presbytery "deplored the prevalence of this evil," and agreed to co-operate with other bodies in Scotland to secure such legislative enactments as would put a stop or reduce "the uncalled for and unnecessary Sabbath trading." We have given our friends in Scotland object lessons in Presbyterian union; and now, perhaps, they may also learn something from Canada in the matter of Sabbath observance, although on this point we have little room for boasting.

Col. G. T. Dennison, in the Toronto Police Court lately, made some outspoken remarks on the subject of lawyers' fees. The remarks were brought out by a case in which a lawyer was charged by a client with the theft of a sum of money. The evidence presented showed that whatever money had been retained by the defendant was for legal costs, which left the magistrate no alternative but to dismiss the case. In doing so he said, "It is a monstrous thing that people should be deprived of their money in this manner. Nowadays it is next to impossible to get anything out of a suit at court, after the lawyers have got through with it. Hundreds and thousands of cases have arisen in the past few years in which there has been little or nothing when the charges for lawyers' services have been paid. This thing will come to an end some day. The people will rise in their might and break the system which permits such enormous charges." This is rather a sweeping indictment of one of the learned professions. It is possible Toronto has too many lawyers, and some of them may take advantage of their position to eke out a living; but the average solicitor everywhere maintains the worthy traditions of an honorable profession.