

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Among the articles of note in The Missionary Review of the World for December is one by the editor, Dr. Pierson, on "The Indebtedness of Missions to the Mystics." It shows how this school of Christian leaders has furnished some of the most able advocates of missions.

Dr. John Watson wishes to introduce important changes into the Presbyterian church. He dislikes "the present democratic system of electing ministers, and would place this duty in the hands of a few wise men." We are not yet prepared to accept this remedy.

The Christian Guardian, the organ of the Methodists of Canada, says: "The disastrous fire which destroyed the Ottawa University is a serious loss to our Roman Catholic fellow citizens particularly, as well as to the cause of higher education in general." Many kind words have been said by Protestants and Protestant journals to our Roman Catholic fellow-citizen: respecting the great calamity which has overtaken their educational work in the metropolis of Canada.

Mr. Buckley, the famous editor of the Christian Advocate, thinks "the Present Epidemic of Crim" in the United States, of which he writes in the Century Magazine, quite largely due to the lawlessness of labor unions, and their immunity from punishment because political parties do not care to risk losing votes by punishing those who destroy property, make murderous attacks upon non-union men, etc.

Striking is costly business, says the New York Christian Intelligencer—"costly to the strikers and costly to the parties against whom strikes are aimed." Besides the losses to builders and owners of buildings, whose erection was delayed for months by the strikers and lock-outs in the building trades last season, the strikers lost millions of dollars in wages, which it will take many years, even at advanced wages, to recover.

Great Britain owns more shipping than all other nations put together. The total British tonnage is 14,431,072 tons. Germany has 3,138,568 tons, and the United States has 2,342,913 tons. This record does not bear out the protestations of those pessimistic politicians who say the old land is in her decadence and can only be saved by adopting a protectionist policy—that of increasing the taxation of the people in order to make the people rich.

Rev. Dr. R. P. McKay, Foreign Mission Secretary, received advices recently from India to the effect that the great siege of bubonic plague was abating in Mhow and Indore, where the death rate was unparalleled for several consecutive months. The country is not free of the scourge, however, by any means, as it has broken out with renewed force in several of the small hill villages, and its ravages are striking terror to the hearts of the populace.

The Christian Observer notes the death of a noted Japanese, Mr. Kenkichi Kataaka, an elder in the Presbyterian church, and Speaker of the Diet in Japan. He died at his home in Kochian, October 31, 1903. He was truly a good man and he had immense influence over the church in Japan. He was made an elder of the Kochi church in 1885. In all of his great political work he ever found time to do his duty to his church. He was for a time president of the Doshisha, or theological seminary, at Kyoto, Japan, and was chairman of the committee of Home Missions in that country.

Last summer a brewery company erected a brewery in Sydney, N. S., only a hundred feet distant from one of the public schools of the town. Sincere efforts were made by the law-abiding people of the town, backed up by public opinion throughout the province, to prevent the "institution" going into operation. An appeal was made to the Ottawa government against the granting of a license, and as the town council finally refused to grant a license, the building, plant and machinery, costing probably about \$30,000 are for sale. It can probably be put to some good use better than making and selling beer.

The editor of a journal in Tokio, Japan, recently offered eight prizes for original poems, without restriction as to themes or as to their treatment. Six hundred manuscripts were sent in; on examination it appeared that every one of them in some way revealed Christian influence, and many expressed Christian sentiment. After the selection of the eight best had been made, it appeared that every one of them was from a Christian author. Such a result would seem to indicate that Christianity is having the effect of stimulating the intellectual powers of the Japanese, as well as operating healthfully upon their hearts and lives.

The interesting statement is going the rounds of the press on both sides of the Atlantic, that the original letter which General Grant wrote in reply to the Republican invitation to stand for the United States Presidency, has been found among a heap of old papers in a cellar at Hartford, Conn. This letter, which contains the famous phrase, "Let us have peace," had been lost for thirty-five years. The closing paragraph reads:—"Peace, and universal prosperity, its sequence, with economy of administration, will lighten the burden of taxation, while it constantly reduces the national debt. Let us have peace. With great respect, U. S. Grant." If General Grant could now be interviewed, he would be obliged to confess that while the national debt has been greatly reduced, the war tariff in all its essential features remains, economy of administration has not yet put in an appearance, and the trend of the burden of taxation is upward.

Dr. H. Clay Trumbull, editor of the New York Sunday School Times since 1875, died Dec. 8. His was a co-sacred life,—not only in the field of religious journalism, but also in the field of personal effort on behalf of the unsaved. His purpose and resolve is thus stated by himself: "I determined that

as I loved Christ, and as Christ loved souls, I would press Christ on the individual soul, so that none who were in the proper sphere of my individual responsibility or influence should lack the opportunity of meeting the question whether or not they would individually trust and follow Christ. The resolve I made was that whenever I was in such intimacy with the soul as to be justified in choosing my subject of conversation, the theme of themes should have prominence between us, so that I might learn his need, and, if possible, meet it." If such courage and faithfulness could everywhere be exercised by the professed followers of Christ what a happy change this sin-cursed world would witness.

There are now in the New England States and Pennsylvania—and we think also in some of the Western States—a number of sanatoriums for the treatment of consumptive patients. Down in Nova Scotia a sanatorium is being erected by the government of that province. How soon shall we have so necessary an institution established in the Ottawa Valley.

A contemporary states that anti-swearing leagues are being organized in some English towns. Inspectors have been appointed whose duty it is to warn persons heard swearing in the streets or public vehicles. After one warning, offenders may be arrested. The DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN has several times called attention to the fact that anti-profanity associations have been organized in several places in the United States where they are accomplishing much good. Nobody seems ready to start such a movement in Canada, where there is a large field for moral effort of that kind. We do not know of any place that stands more in need of an anti-swearing league than Ottawa. The profanity heard at times on the streets, among both men and boys, is really awful.

## State of the Funds.

The following is a statement of the receipts for the several schemes up to 28th December, 1902 and 28th December, 1903:

	1902	1903
Home Mission.....	\$39,299 79	\$33,719 79
Augmentation.....	4,221 79	3,002 38
Foreign Mission.....	16,661 30	10,971 19
French Evangelization..	6,876 55	5,784 87
Pointe-aux-Trembles....	2,947 37	2,575 25
Widows' & Orphans....	2,593 06	2,100 70
Aged and Infirm		
Ministers.....	2,002 58	2,546 29
Assembly.....	927 40	986 11
Knox College.....	1,162 59	1,019 67
Queen's College.....	298 04	272 38
Montreal College.....	415 32	284 20
Manitoba College.....	669 38	965 28

It will be observed that the receipts for some of the funds are still considerably short of those of the corresponding period last year. This is true, especially of the Home Mission Fund, which is \$5,580 short, the Augmentation Fund \$620, French Evangelization \$992, Pointe-aux-Trembles schools \$400 and Widows' and Orphans' Fund \$490.

There has been mailed to each minister, a circular shewing the amount required for the several schemes, and also the amount which each scheme should get of every \$100 distributed. It is hoped that, in the allocation of moneys by congregations, respect will be had to the relative amounts required by each scheme.