

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

Advices from Tokio said that the Japanese Government expected no serious opposition to the reconstruction of the An-Tung and Moukden Railway. It was reported that China had withdrawn objections.

An article on "The Reforms," which the Living Age for August 14 reprints from the Hindustan Review, throws light upon the native Indian view of recent English policy in the administration of India. It is written by Mr. Swinny, Editor of the Positivis Review, and it shows plainly that the native Indian regards the recent reforms merely as a first installment of larger privileges.

The claim has been made by some that kissing the Bible when taking an oath in court is dangerous because of microbes. An Australian paper says that a Bible with smooth ivory covers, which can be washed at the close of each day, has been presented to the Essex Quarter Session for the use of witnesses and others. It replaces a book which has been in use for many years, and had been kissed to pieces.

The Congregational Conference of Michigan recently declared that "in voluntary fellowship for the promotion of the Church of Christ through common consecration and co-operation, it makes confession of its devout faith in one God, our Father in heaven, who has manifested himself to the world in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord, and in loving fellowship abides in his children by faith through his Spirit our Guide and comforter." This is an admirable summary of things commonly believed by all evangelical Christians.

It is said that prohibition does not prohibit, and that as much whisky is shipped into local option districts as were formerly sold in the banished saloons. The United States Internal revenue bureau comes along now with its annual report and states that during the year ending June 30 there was a decrease in tax receipts from whisky of \$5,290,773, says the United Presbyterian. The report blames the decrease on the "prohibition wave." There was, however, an increase in tax received from tobacco of about half the loss on whisky. Is the one a result of the other?

Rev. Archibald L. Fleming, of the Church of England, with one other young man, will go this fall to open a mission in the new part of Baffinland. They will take with them two years' supplies. In addition to provisions they will carry with them coal and firewood, and lumber sufficient to build a mission house and furniture. Dr. Grenfell, of Labrador, will loan them a motor launch to use in case their ship should get amongst the icebergs. They will land at Ashe Inlet. From this point they hope to receive mail once a year. They will labor among the Eskimos.

Manchuria is being developed rapidly. The International year book gives the wheat crop of the country as 8,000,000 bushels in 1907, and 20,000,000 in 1908. Large flour mills have been established in Harbin and other places in Northern Manchuria by the Russians, while the Manchurian Milling Company, a Japanese concern, has built a small mill which is the first of a chain of flour mills which the company intends to establish along the South Manchurian railway. Southern Manchuria also produces large crops of millet and beans, and considerable quantities of silk, the export trade being in the hands of the Japanese.

Dr. Cameron Lees, recently minister of St. Giles's, Edinburgh, has been knighted by the King—the first minister of the Gospel receiving such an honor.

Dr. Elliot's New Religion is receiving, says the Catholic Register, a terrible lambasting in the pages of the religious press. The doctor is now hedging and insisting that he is being misquoted and misunderstood. He probably fears the effects which his words may have on Harvard University. There is enough of real religion left in the country to resent this attack on the fundamentals of belief.

Barcelona mobs, suppressed by severe military measures, are still incensed, it was reported, and there is danger of more outbreaks. Forty convents were razed by flames, and 7,000 children made homeless. The tombs of nuns were desecrated, it was said, but the living were spared. Madrid officials declared the crisis over and the country tranquil.

Says the Canadian Baptist:—The Presbyterian body lost a great and good man last week in the death of Rev. Dr. MacLaren, so many years prominent in the faculty of Knox College. Dr. MacLaren was strong as a preacher as well as a teacher, and he has been heard with great profit by many of the congregations of the church throughout Canada. A man of deep spirituality, sympathetic spirit, and kindly in all his ways, his influence upon the student-life of Knox was of the highest possible character.

The Canadian Committee of the International Congress on Tuberculosis reports that the death-rate in Canada from tuberculosis is 11,700 yearly. The average of deaths is something less than 200 per 100,000 of population. Unless some check is given to the rate of deaths that prevailed when the last reliable statistics were taken, 780,000 of our present population of six and a half millions will die of the white plague. The Christian Guardian asks: Are we giving this awful source of suffering and loss the attention that we should?

The strike in Sweden has brought about a famine. The bread supply at Stockholm is exhausted and meat and ice are held at such exorbitant prices as to be beyond the reach of any but the wealthy. The strikers are living practically on fish and thousands of them are camping out. The authorities have taken charge of the milk supply of Stockholm and are distributing milk in small quantities. Efforts have been made to destroy the gas and electric light plants of the city. The number of strikers grows daily and the leaders of the movement report, as this is written, a total of 300,000 about one-twentieth of the population of the country.

Sir Robert Hart retires from the Chinese Customs Service after forty-five years of service. Perhaps there is no other man in recent years who has had so much influence in the affairs of China, and in the world's commerce in the Orient. Sir Robert introduced system and modern business methods into the service, and secured an administration of the marine customs equal to that of most Western nations. He secured honesty in place of the Old Chinese methods, and greatly increased the revenues. This also made it much easier for imports from all parts of the world. By treaty with China, Great Britain provided that an Englishman shall fill this position so long as Great Britain's commerce with China exceeds that of any other nation.

In connection with the World's Christian Endeavor Convention, to be held at Agra, Northwest India, November 20-23, 1909, the unique suggestion has been made that the Christians living within a radius of fifty miles of Agra walk to the convention along certain indicated routes preaching as they go and come into the convention in one large army. If this can be properly carried out there can be no doubt of the stirring effect it will have on the non-Christian communities reached.

From Ireland the report comes that in the County Fermanagh some two thousand people in the expectation that the Millennium may be ushered in at any moment, are holding continuous prayer-meetings. The pilgrims have arrived from all parts of the country, and remarkable scenes, it is said, are being witnessed. Hundreds of persons are baptized publicly in the river every day, and the converts are sleeping out in the open air on the farm of one of the leaders. Things of this kind have happened so often, remarks the Canadian Baptist, that it is not difficult to predict the result. In our own country, in the eastern townships in the Province of Quebec, something similar happened some half century ago, and the evil results are felt by Christian workers to this day. The deserted church at which the excited crowds gathered is still to be seen, and the religious atmosphere of the Eastern Townships has not yet recovered from the evil effects. The materialistic views underlying the movement, and the reaction following on the disappointment of expectations, have "burned over" the whole surrounding country, and make it hard to press the real gospel. It seems that each new generation has to learn its lesson, but whether they are "Millerites" as in the Eastern Township, fifty years ago, or "Cooneyites" as in Ireland to-day, it all comes to the same thing. This is not Christ's way, and Christ's way is always the best way.

Two weeks ago, the Turkish government communicated to Greece an urgent note asking that the Greek government express disapproval of the annexation agitation to Crete and formally declared that Greece has no ambition regarding the Island. Turkey threatens to break off diplomatic relations if the demands are not complied with. Turkey has announced to the European powers that she intends to stand by what she considers her rights in Crete. This is understood to mean that she is determined that there shall be a restoration of the status which prevailed in Crete previous to the Turko-Grecian war of 1897. Since that war Crete has enjoyed an autonomous government under the joint protection of four of the great powers of Europe, and peace has been maintained by the presence of troops of these four powers. July 1, 1909, was the time set by Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy for the withdrawal of the International forces. The announcement was made a year ago last May, and immediately trouble began. The present action of Turkey precipitated by the threat of a large number of Albanians assembled at Monastir that unless effective measures were adopted to prevent the annexation the whole Mussulman population of Macedonia would march against Greece. European governments now look upon the situation as serious, but hope to bring such pressure to bear as may preserve the peace. The difficulty in the situation is increased by the determined attitude of the new regime in Turkey as compared with the weakness and timidity of the government under Abdul Hamid.