

Dominion Presbyterian

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Notes and Comments

There are sections in New York so thickly populated with Jews that their children constitute more than ninety per cent. of the scholars in the Public Schools.

Before British rule was established over India the problem of a famine was solved by simply letting the surplus population die. In the famine of 1769, for example, which was only an ordinary one among these periodical visitations, over 3,000,000 of the native population perished.

The brewers of the United States and their friends have sought to make it appear that the consumption of liquor has not increased in the Philippines since the American occupation. At least the export of liquor from the United States has. For the year preceding the occupation only \$345 worth went there from that country. For three months since the United States took possession, \$118,283 worth have gone. Unfortunately the Government of the United States is protecting this traffic in its new dependencies.

The St. Louis strike has developed a degree of lawlessness that is rarely exhibited in a civilized country. Numbers of people have been killed, and brutal incidents are of frequent occurrence. One young woman who was supposed to be a non-union employee was hunted through the streets of the city as if she was a wild beast, and almost every vestige of clothing was torn off her, and there was neither officer nor man in the crowd to raise an arm for her protection.

One notable decision of the Northern Presbyterian General Assembly was to set apart the first Friday of its next session in Philadelphia, May, 19 1, for special service in connection with the advent of the twentieth century. The morning session is to be occupied with a review of the history of the church during the nineteenth century. The afternoon will be given to the outlook for the twentieth century, and the evening session will be of a popular character with appropriate addresses.

Rev. William Patterson commenced his ministry last Sunday at Bethany church, Philadelphia. He must have formed ather a low estimate of the listening ability of that people says the Michigan Presbyterian for his evening sermon that day was just 15 minutes long. Some one will be calculating how much a minute he receives for preaching: for there are still some people in the world, and even in the church, who think that all that a minister does to earn his salary is to talk twice on Sunday.

When I see reports in the papers of unevangelical preaching I am reminded of a story which I heard many years ago. A Universalist having proved, as he thought, that all men would be saved, offered, at the close of the service, to come and preach again. But an old friend arose and said: "If thou hast told the truth, we do not need thee any more; and if thou hast told us a lie, we do not want thee any more." To go about preaching that all men will be saved, do matter what they believe or do is as absurd as it would be to issue a daily proclamation that the sun is shining.

The king of Siam has a bodyguard of female warriors i.e., 400 girls chosen from amongst the strongest and most handsome of all the ladies in the land.

The first results of the church census taken in Toronto on the 2nd of March have just been published for five of the six wards of the city. As the total number is only 148,001 persons it would appear that the enumeration did not include all citizens, but no doubt it is fairly representative of the whole as classified into churches or denominations. The Church of England leads with 39,451; the Methodists come next, with 35,876; the Presbyterians are third with 29,972; the Roman Catholics fourth, with 17,993; the Baptists fifth, with 9,011; the Congregationalists sixth, with 8,757; the Hebrews seventh, with 7,669; and the Plymouth Brethren eighth, with 1,495. All the others are under 1,000 in each Church or denomination.

An Austrian savant has declared that the human brain contains a "name centre." He says that it is the office of this cell to retain names. A striking case which would seem to confirm this theory recently occurred at Cleveland. A brakeman was shot by a conductor, and the former could not remember the names of persons or things, although he could perfectly well describe the functions of all articles exhibited to him. The surgeon probed for the bullet, and found it in the exact spot necessary to affect the remembrance of names according to the Austrian's theory. When the pressure on the brain had been relieved the patient remembered names as well as he had done before his injury and told the name of his assailant.

It has been calculated that the American travelers this year will spend over five million dollars in tips alone, remarks the Saturday Evening Post. Most of them will do it grudgingly, because, of all the petty black-mail of our advanced civilization these gratuities are the meanest and most provoking. At the same time if one is traveling and wishes to get comfortable he must deal out the tidbits on every hand. If you should want to know the depth of human misery simply decline to give any fee at all while taking a trip across the Atlantic ocean. Then you may envy Jonah in his solitude within the whale's interior. On the other side of course if you do not pay the tips, you will simply be asked for them just as you would for your street car fare. It is pretty hard but there is no escape from it.

At the Free Church Assembly Dr. Stewart of Lovedale South Africa, was present in time to preach as retiring moderator. His text was "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." The closing part of his address earnestly besought the Free Church to abstain from all agitation for 'Disestablishment,' but to work for a still wider union. Dr. Walter Ross Taylor, the new moderator, gave a capital address on Science and Religion. It was practically an eirenicon a peace message, between new and old, and showed no little courage. An array of provosts and magistrates in their robes attended the opening services. — It was agreed to co-operate with the Established Church in beginning the meetings henceforth on Tuesdays instead of Thursdays. The Assembly hall is to be much enlarged. "Union" was in the air; in every report, in most speeches. The Sustentation Fund and the funds generally showed to good advantage. The union is to take place on the 30th October.

The Queen has sometimes taken refuge in an incognito to avoid people sending her begging-letters. Hence a certain mysterious "Mrs. Smith" who appears occasionally in subscription lists

At the beginning of the Omdurman campaign (says "M.A.P.") General Kitchener sent to the home authorities for some special kind of breaching guns. The home authorities immediately suggested another kind, but the Sirdar replied, saying he preferred those he had suggested. Shortly afterwards, however, he was informed that the Gun Office had preferred were being sent out to him, whereupon he despatched a polite message to the authorities, saying he thanked them, but they could keep their guns, as he could throw stones at the Dervishes himself. After that the guns he asked for were sent with as little delay as possible.

Miss Mary Kingsley, one of the most brilliant, courageous, self-sacrificing Englishwomen of the time went out as a nurse to South Africa. Nursing fever stricken Boer prisoners she caught fever and died. She had worked hard and had not the strength left to rally from her fatal foe. Miss Kingsley, was a niece of Charles Kingsley, and seemed to inherit much of the uncle's chivalrous, impetuous, adventurous spirit. A few years ago she conducted marvellous explorations in the fever districts of West-Africa, and her story of her adventures is among the most stirring of recent books. We regret her death, for the world has lost a brave spirit that delighted in facing hardships and perils and overcoming them. When Miss Kingsley found that she was dying she asked that she should be buried out at sea, and her wish was gratified.

Rev. Dr. Wills, of New York, in an address before the Presbyterian ministers of San Francisco last week said: "Science in its most erratic and irreverent days never did one-thousandth part as much to unsettle confidence in the divine revelation as the immature, half-digested and undemonstrated theories which our critics have been putting forth have done. It is not the Bible that is suffering at their hands, but it is the faith in the Bible which is imperiled. They might as well shoot peas at Gibraltar with a child's popgun as to try to undermine the good book." And yet the noise of their popguns scares some good people who ought to know better, and they keep looking at the rock to see if it begun to tremble. The devil knows that he cannot shake the rock, hence he tries to shake our faith in it. We should not be ignorant of his devices (2 Cor. ii. 11).

The Congregationalist, answering those who insist that the salary of a pastor should be no larger than the average incomes of his members, raises the question whether the churches would be satisfied if their pastors possessed only the average of the community's knowledge, culture and leadership in religious matters also, and adds, "Leaving wholly out of consideration the costliness of the long and thorough education, without which no minister is properly qualified for his work, his services ought to be, and seldom fail to be, worth more to the church in money than the average income of the congregation. In point of fact, however, the suggestion is more often acted upon than many suppose. There must be hundreds of ministers whose salaries are even less than the average earnings of their adult male hearers. No other profession has to face more often the strain of severe effort to make both ends meet.