

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA

Single Copies 5 Cents

NOTE AND COMMENT

"An effort is making to have the colored Methodists of the United States formed into one Church. At present there are three or four different denominations with little or no difference except in name.

The fifty-fifth anniversary of the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union was held in London, England, last month and was a meeting of wonderful interest and encouragement and enthusiasm. Reports show that no less than 3,600,000 young people were identified with the movement and enrolled as pledge abstainers.

Calgary's street-car tickets are now carrying a beer advertisement on the back. The church people don't like it. They think that Calgary can get along without the brewer's contributions. Many will wonder how such an advertisement ever got there. "Surely someone was asleep" remarks the Christian Guardian.

There are now over one thousand wireless telegraph stations in the world, over one-half of which are affiliated with the International Telegraphic Union. It seems impossible to believe how short a time ago it is since we were all saying that wireless telegraphy was only the dream of poor deluded romancers. To-day it is one of the ordinary facts of ordinary business life.

Lake Megantic, Que., has banished the bar. The chief figure in the struggle for a dry town was the Roman Catholic priest of the place, Rev. Father Choquette, but the Episcopalian and Presbyterian pastors were also local optionists, and Roman Catholic and Protestant fought the battle side by side, and won. Such church union is to be commended from every point of view.

A new Moravian church building has been erected during the past year at Nain, Labrador. The Eskimos, both men and women did much of the hard work in connection with the building. They helped carry the lumber from the slip landing, hauled stones for the foundation on a dog-sledge from a mile away, and carried sand in half bushel baskets. Best of all they were cheerful workers.

It is estimated that there are now 477,080,158 Christians in the world. Other religions have the following: Confucianism, 256,000,000; Hinduism, 190,000,000; Mohammedanism, 175,000,000; Buddhism, 147,000,000; Taoism, 43,000,000; Shintoism, 24,000,000; while Polytheistic systems number 117,000,000. The population of the world is about 1,420,000,000. There are almost twice as many Christians as there are adherents to any other faith.

The most extraordinary ancient ruins ever unearthed in America have rewarded the efforts of Dr. J. Walter Fewkes, of the Smithsonian Institution. In the southwest corner of Colorado, along the canon of the Rio Mancos, which ranges from 1,000 to 2,000 feet deep, are newly found houses of cliff-dwellers, which contain from 100 to 200 rooms. Each large house is a complete, fortified house in itself. The walls are as high as 30 feet in places, and as thick as two feet three inches. The builders, however, were a peaceful, agricultural people, who built mainly for defense against Sioux and Apaches. They deserted their homes, probably because of raids upon their crops by hostile tribes, or because of contagious disease or clan feuds among themselves.

Queen Mary is said to be the third English princess since the Norman Conquest to have become Queen Consort of England. The preceding kings have almost without exception married, princesses of foreign blood. Alexandra herself is a Dane, but has lived in England so long that she regards herself as an Englishwoman, and has announced that she intends to make England her home for the rest of her life.

With the death of Dr. Robert Koch, the great German bacteriologist, the world has lost the second noted pioneer in the investigation of the relation between microscopic organisms and disease. The other was Pasteur. Doctor Koch is best known in America as the discoverer of the tuberculosis bacillus and the demonstrator of the curability of the once dreaded disease; and that was only one of his many achievements in the realm of medicine.

The *Acton Free Press* says: "Some English educators are insisting that temperance instruction should rank in the schools in importance with language and arithmetic. If the schools are to fit their pupils for life, they cannot afford to make this big question a matter for occasional reference, and still less to postpone its study to the upper grades or the high school. Every child that spends five years in school should go out into life equipped by knowing something of the effect of alcohol on the human body, and of temperance upon preference.

The skill and knowledge of the modern explorers of the lands of ancient civilization are being rewarded by wonderful discoveries. The Berlin Archaeological Society has found on the site of Pergamon, in Asia Minor, the remains of a great sanctuary and temple of the goddess Demeter, built about 262 B.C., to which additions were made after the country passed under the Roman rule. Within the sanctuary, besides the high altar to the goddess were altars to over half a dozen other deities. Of special interest is an imperfectly preserved inscription on a marble altar which is deciphered to be a dedication to "the unknown gods." This recalls Paul's address in the Court of Areopagus in Athens, when he was asked about the foreign deities he was talking of. In his reply he said that when he was going about and looking at the objects that you worship "I observed an altar on which the dedication was inscribed: 'To an unknown God.'"

A striking testimony to the value of home training and its possibilities for recruiting the ministry is given in the facts furnished by the report of the Secretary of Ministerial Education and Relief to the recent Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church, in which it is said: Of four hundred and sixteen candidates who have reported as to their age at the time of their decision to enter the ministry, three hundred decided before they entered college, eighty-eight decided while in college, and twenty-eight after leaving college. Only fifty-eight of the entire number made the decision while in our own Presbyterian colleges. These verified figures indicate that the problem of recruiting the ministry lies largely in the Christian homes of our Church. Decisions are made before the boy enters college. Fifteen made decision before they were ten years of age, for God calls some even as he called Samuel in very early childhood. This throws the responsibility with tremendous force upon Christian parents.

The "Quebec" Government License Bill is meeting with opposition in the Legislature, *The Pioneer*, and it is difficult just yet to predict what will be the outcome of the debates that are going on. It is gratifying to find a general opinion in favor of more rigid restriction of the traffic and a curtailment of its opportunities to do harm. One amendment that was voted upon and defeated was proposed by Mr. Gird, of Compton, aiming at the prohibition of the practice of treating.

The extent to which the telephone has come into use is hardly fully appreciated. Certainly no greater convenience has been developed and applied in the business and social life of the times than is provided by this now indispensable instrument. Engineering is authority for the statement that there are in the whole world 9,600,000 telephones, and the lines have an aggregate length of about 12,500,000 miles. There are 1,800,000 telephones in Europe, 56,000 in Asia, 9,000 in Africa, 7,700,000 in Canada and the United States, and 53,000 in Australia.

It is significant of the progress that is being made in Turkey under the Young Turk party that a commission has been organized, of which a Presbyterian missionary is president, and leading officers of state and representatives from all the churches, Mohammedan, Jewish and Christian, are members, for the purpose of providing "a means of livelihood for poor girls and women of every sect and faith. This commission is to have charge of \$18,000 of Government money, with which it is proposed to encourage various Oriental handicrafts that may help the women and children suffering from the massacres in Adana of a year ago.

Rev. Jonathan Goforth, M.A., who recently started back to his field, after a furlough in Canada, has written concerning the observance of the Lord's Day in China. He says: There are records in China which show that in ancient times the Sabbath was honored and strictly observed. The princes even were forbidden to go out of the city on Sabbath to view their lands. It is remarkable, however, how completely the Sabbath as a day of rest for man has been forgotten by the Chinese. Tracks of this ancient custom can be seen in the ceremonies for the dead. If the person who dies has relatives that can afford it, for weeks every seventh day after death, priests are invited, and elaborate ceremonies are gone through with for the repose of the soul. We constantly hear the Chinese preachers making a strong argument on this point in favour of the fourth commandment. They charge their ancestors at some time in the past of wilfully turning aside from God's ordained plan of a seventh day of rest for the living workman, and applying it to the dead, who had no need of it. Everywhere in China where I have seen God mightily moving the churches, conviction of sin because they had not observed the Sabbath as God had decreed, was very prominent. After God with great fervour for ten days had moved the Church at Change-fu-Honan, we asked all who were resolved to keep the Sabbath holy, to stand up. Instantly, everyone in the tent stood up. The fact that the Holy Spirit so distinctly emphasized the Sabbath in the Chinese revival, has led me to believe that God would have us be much more strict on Sabbath observance. I have a strong conviction that the prevailing laxity about Sabbath observance in Christian countries deeply grieves the Holy Spirit.