

Dominion Presbyterian

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

An education bill was introduced in the House of Commons by the Government. It provides that all denominational schools now receiving state aid shall, if continued, give only undenominational religious teaching.

The largest Sabbath school in the world is said to be one at Stockport, England, which is reported to have 500 teachers and 6,000 pupils. It was founded in 1784, being one of the early schools under the Robert Raikes' movement. It is denominational and has a building of its own.

The Bible is still a living and powerful book. Its circulation is an index of the growth of the kingdom of Christ. About 10,000,000 volumes were circulated during 1905. The intelligent acceptance of the Bible and its teachings is changing lives and character in all parts of the world.

Mr. J. S. Ewart, K.C., just returned from Ottawa, remarked to a Winnipeg Free Press reporter: "It was a most humiliating spectacle to see Canada's leading men gathered, as if in a cockpit, and attempting to blacken one another's characters. One day it is an attempt to make Sir Charles Tupper out a liar, the next day Mr. Laurier, and so on. I hope we shall never see the like again."

"After I've had a quart of good beer," said one man, "I feel as if I could knock a house down." "That may be," said his friend, "but since I've been a teetotaler I've knocked two houses up." It benefits trade a good deal more to knock houses up than down, unless it be the publican's. If that were knocked down, numbers of other houses would be knocked up. Teetotalism pays the tradesman.

It is estimated, says the Missionary Review, that not less than 50,000 Chinese have heard the gospel through the instrumentality of Rev. J. Hudson Taylor. In the last five years nearly 6,000 have been baptized in the China Inland Mission stations, and there are now over 12,000 communicants in twelve different provinces. The missionaries number 825 and the stations 200, with 132 outstations. There are 1,132 native helpers and 418 organized churches.

The Bishop of Birmingham has just condemned the excessive expenditure entailed by the following of fashion, and the spirit of dependence of the well-to-do young men. People were apt to become slaves to expenditure by allowing themselves to grow to think that they could not do without it. We were led by an instinctive love of display, by a desire that our entertainment of our friends should not fall short of that which they had given to us. In all these things, tradition was a false guide. Fashion was leading us wrong.

Philadelphia Presbyterian of 21st inst. says: The Torrey meetings are at the middle of their last month. They have had for seven weeks marked attention. Every one knows who preacher and singer are; knows where the meetings have been held; knows what has been the character of the preaching. Both men, singer and preacher, have made their mark upon the town. Philadelphia may not move swiftly after anything new, but after it begins to move it does not stop suddenly. If it does not take a man up quickly, it does not let him down quickly either. Dr. Torrey will soon have preached his preaching in this city, but it will not be forgotten soon. And the work of conversion of souls will go on, and on, and on. That is Philadelphia.

Rev. John A. Bain, in the Belfast Witness, sums up the reasons of the revolt against the Roman Catholic Church, in Austria-Hungary as follows: 1. Certain political and national movements; 2. the effect of Romanism in hindering the progress of the nation. Over 50,000 have seceded and about 40,000 have become Protestants.

In 1825 the South American State of Bolivia became a republic, and a constitution was adopted which said: "The State recognizes and maintains the Roman Catholic Apostolic religion permitting liberty of worship and prohibits all other public worship, except in colonial parts, where there will be toleration." This has recently been changed to read: "The State recognizes and maintains the Roman Catholic Apostolic religion, permitting liberty of worship." Therefore, the gospel, as promulgated by other denominations, is to be legally free and permitted.

The most significant of recent events in India, says Woman's Work, is the founding of the National Missionary Society, last Christmas Day. Indian delegates from leading Protestant churches in each province of India, Burma and Ceylon met in "Carey's historic library at Serampore" and organized the movement under Italian management, to be conducted with Indian money and Indian men, as they shall be called forth by the spirit of God. There are about one million Protestant Christians in India, and one hundred millions of people unreached by any mission. We look with ardent hope to this society of India to urge forward efforts such as resulted from the Haystack Meeting, and with increased momentum, in behalf of these heathen millions.

The decline in Great Britain's marriages, as detailed in the official statistics of 1904 and cabled to the Sun, furnishes a Liberal argument. While the marriages of spinsters decreased from 63.1 to 50.9 per thousand in slightly over two decades, the mean annual remarriage rate for widows dropped from 21.1 per thousand to 12.5 per thousand. Widowers showed the same disproportionate decrease compared with bachelors, the latter being from 61.7 to 52.8, the former 65.8 to 38. This means that not only are the young British men unwilling to assume the expense of a household, but that with rising standards of living and comparative hard times men who have once undertaken the burden become much more reluctant to resume it. Altogether there has been a fall in the marriage rate in Great Britain of 19 per cent in thirty-five years.

Michigan Presbyterian: "Works of necessity," as permissible under the law of the Sabbath, have become very numerous in these latter days. Things that our fathers and mothers did without on the Sabbath, have come to be looked upon as necessary in our modern, highly refined and over-indulged modes of living, until the Sabbath, if not just like a week-day, is becoming too much like a holiday, in which the Sunday paper, pleasing pastimes and elaborate dinners are accepted as a matter of course. In this connection it is interesting to note a decision of the supreme court of Massachusetts, which as an exchange points out, denies the doctrine that civilization increases the necessities of life. The court says: "The word 'necessity' was originally inserted to secure the observance of the Lord's day in accordance with the views of our ancestors, and it ever since has stood and still stands for the same purpose."

One of the most prominent saloon keepers of Chicago, who lives in a prohibition suburb, gives his reasons for choosing such a locality by saying that he prefers to bring up his family as far away from the saloon as possible. And he is quite right! But why should the saloon be permitted to keep open door anywhere? Everywhere it is a menace to both young and old.

The spade of the excavator in Egypt has recently brought to the surface a papyrus fragment which contains the greater part of Zechariah and Malachi in the Septuagint text, and its date is approximately the 7th century. The find has been added to the collection owned by the great University of Heidelberg.

By means of a modern invention Dr. Torrey preached at both the Bethany Presbyterian church and the Armory each night during the revival meetings in Philadelphia. The connection between the two buildings, which are a mile and a half apart, was made by installing half a dozen "multiphones." One evening an audience of 400 gathered in Bethany church and listened to the entire revival service in progress at the Armory. It is said that Dr. Torrey's voice was heard excellently, and that the "Old-Time Religion" sounded especially well when reproduced over the telephone and multiphone. Through these modern inventions, remarks the Michigan Presbyterian, the revival flame is being carried to every corner of the city.

One of the New York dailies has reprinted the letter which Pliny wrote, describing the famous eruption of Vesuvius in A. D. 79, of which he was an eye-witness, and wonders whether the present eruption will produce such a literary classic as Pliny's letter is. It is interesting to note that the world for a long time disbelieved Pliny's story of the destruction of Herculaneum and Pompeii. It had begun to deny that there ever were any such cities until a citizen of Italy, digging a well, sent his pick through the roof of a buried building and forthwith the life of those entombed towns, that had been arrested so suddenly centuries before, was laid bare. The moral is, keep digging.

The executive committee, having accepted of the cordial invitation of the Italian National Sunday School commission to hold the World's Fifth Sunday School Convention in Rome at this early date, sends forth an official announcement that it will be held in that city on May 20-23 in the year 1907. The following is from the committee's invitation to all who are interested in Sunday school work throughout the world: It is most fitting that the World's Sunday School Convention, having met in Jerusalem, the birthplace of the Christian Church, should gather now in Rome, that world centre where the Christian Church fought and won its most notable triumphs. Imperial Rome—with its laws, its customs, its rulers, soldiers and citizens—made up the environment within which the members of that early company of Christians gave themselves unsparingly, at any cost, to the cause of Him whom they loved with a devotion not less than that of the great apostle. The Appian Way knew their footsteps; the Martine place could not shut from heaven their fervent pleadings; the Colosseum ran with their blood and sounded with their dying songs of triumph; the Catacombs closed in upon them with a thick darkness which could not quench the flame of their Christian hope; and the Roman Forum daunted them not at all in its formidable publicity, when they must stand fearlessly for the rejected King whose willing bond slaves they were.