

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

The remarkable wave of temperance which is at present spreading all over Great Britain, is said to be due in the first place to economic conditions, and secondly, to the great change in public taste. The consumption of wine which was 16,661,000 gallons in 1899, fell to 11,000,000 gallons in 1904. In the same period the consumption of spirits declined from 44,413,000 to 40,806,000 gallons.

The Presbyterian Witness of Sept. 2nd contains obituary notices of John Henry MacKeen, of Guysboro county, and Elizabeth Metcalfe Kennedy of Pictou County, both at the advanced age of 91 years. Then come obituary notices of three aged people who died—two at 75 years and one at 81 years. This is wonderful longevity.

The Lutheran Church throughout the world in four years from 1900 to 1904 has had an increase of 1,144 pastors, 6,848 churches, 4,887,736 baptized members, 6,561 parochial schools, and 1,868 deaconesses. The increase in North America during the period has been 534 pastors, 722 churches, 1,102,360 members, 1,208 parochial schools. The total for the Lutheran Church Churches, 70,158,727 members, 102,859 parochial schools, and 14,314 deaconesses.

The Michigan Presbyterian tells us that there is a mission in Detroit that for thirty years has been doing a good work down near the river in one of the poorer districts and in a settlement abounding with Roman Catholics. There are representatives of the Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist churches at work here and all work together in perfect harmony. Why can we not have such work done in "perfect harmony" everywhere by Christian demonstrations?

The London letter of the "Church Standard" tells of an interesting exhibition of antiquities unearthed by Professor Petrie and others at Sinai, held at the University College, London. Among the relics are those of Seneferu, the first Egyptian ruler who built a pyramid, along with photographs and copies of a huge tablet of Sinai, on which is what is believed to be the earliest existing inscription. There is, however, one of the time of King Sennakhet, six centuries earlier, also found by Professor Petrie. These curious discoveries show that the Egyptians had reached unsuspected heights of culture, evidenced by the most beautiful carvings, seals, and stamps.

A Nova Scotia paper states that Baron Komura, the Japanese peace envoy who has had so much to do in bringing about peace between Japan and Russia, and what will be known in history as "The Treaty of Portsmouth," was a student in the Harvard Law School in 1875—1876. Other members of the class, and fellow students with Baron Komura, were S. D. McLellan, Judge of Probate, Truro, A. A. McLean, M.P., Charlottetown; W. L. Basse, of King and Basse, Halifax; Sir Hibbert Tupper, K.C.M.G., Vancouver; J. J. Ritchie, Halifax; A. J. Sinclair, Halifax, and the late William Curry, Windsor. Mr. McLellan has a photograph of the Harvard Law Class of that year, and Tataro Komura, of Japan, is one of the 200 whose faces are shown.

With the spectacle of Russia's steady defeats, so largely attributed to intemperance among her military and naval officers, it is a poor time to be advocating the restoration of the canteen at our military posts, says the Free Baptist Morning Star.

A Norwegian correspondent of one of the London Church papers describes an important religious movement which is now in progress at Christiania, in Norway. A young preacher named Løndle is filling the large Church Mission-House, which holds thousands of listeners.

The London Presbyterian recently announced that Dr. Gregory, the well-known British Wesleyan leader, who has been out of health for some time, was to sail a few days for Canada. As head of the Children's Home, Dr. Gregory is naturally much interested in the emigration question.

The superstition which has sometimes regarded "Beer! glorious beer!" as a comparatively innocent beverage has lately received several very emphatic contradictions. Dr. John Madden, one of the leading physicians in Milwaukee, has drawn attention to the already patent fact that a beer drinker takes almost as much alcohol into his system as the man who indulges in spirits in consequence of the much larger quantity of the liquor imbibed. He also charges beer with producing fatty degeneration and many heart disorders. Most important of all, he says that beer-drinking is the primary school of the drunkard. Many boys are educated in this way to a taste for intoxicants, or have roused within them some sleeping hereditary appetite. He calculates that fully ninety per cent. of all drunkards are beer-drinking graduates. Dr. Madden's views as to the danger of beer-drinking are endorsed by Dr. Albert Day, superintendent of the Washington Home for Inebriates in Boston, and Mr. J. Holt Schooling in a recent article in the Fortnightly Review.

Great good is resulting from the closing of the saloons in St. Louis on Sunday. On the fourth Sunday after the enforcement of the law began five of the twelve police districts did not have an arrest, and in general the result was a decrease of fifty per cent. in arrests for drunkenness and assaults to kill. The St. Louis Christian Advocate says: "An odd but very natural result of the Sunday closing law in this city is the complaint from the surgeons of the city hospital and dispensaries that since the enforcement of the statute, their practice has diminished to such an extent they have hardly anything to do." The superintendent of the City Hospital states that the number of patients treated for alcoholism has diminished by one half, that the city drunkards now distribute their drinking over the entire week instead of concentrating it on Saturday night and Sunday. A working man in a short contribution to one of the newspapers, says that he is a regular drinker, but though he misses the saloon on Sunday and Sunday night, he is glad of the Sunday closing, for he always has some money in his pocket on Monday morning. What a magnificent reduction there would be in drunkenness and crime, and what a saving of money, if the saloons could be closed on week-days as well as on Sundays. The results achieved in St. Louis should encourage and inspire Christian and temperance men in Canadian cities.

"The starting of the trust iniquity," says an exchange, "was the commercial crime of modern times, and any education which tries to bleach the blackness out of that fact is not good education, however much light it may throw on the doings of Rameses or Sargon or Sennacherib."

Governor Folk, of Missouri, who is with all his might enforcing the laws against illegal liquor-selling in St. Louis and particularly on Sundays, talked in the following vigorous fashion to a newspaper reporter who asked him what it all meant: "This law is going to be enforced as long as it is the law and I have the power to carry it out. It is not a spasm of morbid morality, but the idea that laws are put upon the statute book to be observed, not to be ignored. Many of the dramshop keepers of St. Louis county have defied the authorities of the state. The authorities cannot handle the situation. The dramshops will be taught they are not above the law if it takes the military power of the state to do it. They say this law is a 'blue law.' Any law seems blue to the individual who has a selfish motive in breaking it. If they continue to violate it they will find this law will assume a livelier hue. It is the great state of Missouri; that is enough. Furthermore, it is a law in the interest of good government, to prevent the enormous amount of crimes that come of the Sunday saloon. They say the law is a 'dead law.' Let them ignore it and they will receive a shock that will teach them it's very much alive. If it has been honored more in the breach than in the observance, great is the pity, but that was true of the bribery statute. That, too, was denounced as a 'blue law' and as a 'dead law,' but experience shows it to be neither. My duty is to enforce the law, and I intend to do it the best I can throughout the state. The dramshops must either respect the laws of this state or they will have to show that they are stronger than the state." A display of like vim by civic and municipal authorities in this country would result in much good.

The Church of Rome will not grant divorces, but she has no difficulty in annulling a marriage when it is to her interest to do so. The college of the Propaganda gave as its official judgment that an Italian Princess' first marriage to an American had been null and void because the divorced husband had never been baptized, and so had no religion. The Pope did reverse the finding in that special case. The reversal, however, was not a reversal of the principle announced as to what was necessary to constitute a true marriage, but distinctly announced that in this instance a proper dispensation had been granted by the church. The principle was accepted. Now a former Episcopal clergyman and his wife entered the Roman church, and as he feels it his duty to enter the priesthood, that same complacent church is to dissolve the marriage, so as to make possible his taking of orders. The wife will enter a nunnery. They were not married by a priest, there was no sacrament involved, and Rome is free to do as she will. In the one case absence of religion annuls the marriage, unless the church grants its permission. In the other case the presence of religion works the same end, with the church's gracious assent. And still Rome "admits of no divorce!"