

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

Mr. Thomas Urquhart, former Mayor of Toronto, has given up a very extensive legal practice to give his whole time, without compensation, to the interests of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, as its general secretary.

From Cairo, in Egypt, the pyramids "can be reached by electric cars in forty minutes." Going to the pyramids by electric cars! What has become of their antiquity! How is the romance of the pyramids obliterated!

A distinguished teacher of men's Bible classes speaks with enthusiasm of the fruitfulness and suggestiveness of the Ten Commandments as texts for lectures and sermons. In timeliness they are as helpful as they are rich in suggestiveness.

The growth of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, as stated by Rev. Francis E. Clark, in his annual report to the board of trustees last week, shows a net gain of 1,266 societies and about 50,000 members, making a net enrollment of 70,404 societies.

The population of Rome has shown extraordinary fluctuations. Careful estimates put it at more than 2,000,000 in the fourth century and at less than 140,000 in the eighteenth. It is now about half a million. For many centuries London and Paris have been the largest cities in Europe. St. Petersburg, Berlin and Liverpool are comparatively modern.

There is considerable anxiety about Sven Hedin, the Swedish explorer, who is now somewhere in the wilds of Tibet. He has not been heard from in nearly a year, and the Swedish Foreign Office has requested the British Government in India to do all in its power to find him. Dr. Hedin has made several journeys in Western Asia, and once crossed Tibet and the Gobi Desert.

The Government of Ontario stands on the policy of requiring three-fifths (not simply a majority) of the electors voting against the Liquor Traffic. The strange thing is that Mr. Samuel Blake was successful in getting the Church of England Synod to vote for three-fifths. Thus the English Church Synod has the honor of being the only religious body that has approved of this measure.

Commenting on the need by the Roman Church of a free press, the Springfield Republican says: "The Roman Catholic papers and magazines will not be supported with any heartiness in a country so permeated with freedom of opinion and openness to knowledge as ours, until they can speak without a bishop's imprimatur on their who's contents. Freedom alone ever made a good newspaper or magazine, or indeed any utterance of the human mind."

Says the United Presbyterian:—With the exception of the Lutherans, our Roman Catholic friends long had almost a monopoly, so far as distinctive Church responsibility is concerned, in the maintenance of hospitals and homes. They still maintain an honorable and conspicuous leadership, but it is gratifying to note the extent to which Protestant Christians are awakening to their duty and privilege in providing for the sick, the destitute and helpless.

The Baptist papers, says the Herald and Presbyter, are still saying that there is no foundation for infant baptism and that the custom is declining. Of course, they mean by this that they do not believe in it themselves. But that is very well known. Those who do believe in it, and they the overwhelming majority of the whole Christian world, are just as well assured of their position as they ever were and show it as conclusively as ever in their practice.

It is not to be wondered at that men and women from Europe countries visiting or moving to India should, as it is brought to their notice, be appalled at the havoc wrought by the opium traffic on the minds and bodies of its victims. Not unlike leprosy, it marks out its volarles with dreadful distinctness; defaces the body, impairs and gradually destroys the mind. Strange, indeed, it is that a people so intellectual as the Hindus, should so readily yield to the ruinous lure of the opium habit. But far stranger still is the fact that Christianized and civilized white men are content to profit by the degradation and destruction of the body, mind and soul of their fellow-men.

London has the distinction of having within its gates just now the first missionary exhibition which the English metropolis has ever seen. The exhibit is made in the Agricultural Hall on Liverpool road and is shown under the title "The Orient in London." The purpose of the promoters is to demonstrate the life of foreign lands in the midst of civilization. The central object of the exhibit is a great Chinese pagoda, an exact reproduction of the famous pagoda of Nanking. Among other reproductions of foreign scenes are a Chinese street, a Hindoo village and a Kaffir kraal. A vast number of curios, objects of heathen worship, weapons of warfare, etc., have been collected for exhibition.

It is said that the New York Jewish community is now the largest in history or tradition. It represents 10 per cent. of the entire Jewish population of the world. It is larger than the aggregate Jewish populations of Vienna, Budapest, Berlin, Vilna, Amsterdam, Lemberg and London. It is ten times larger than the entire Jewish population of France; it is twenty times larger than the entire Jewish population of Italy; it is twenty-five times larger than the population of Jerusalem, and fifteen times larger than the entire Jewish population of Syria and Palestine.

The largest and most influential Lodge of Masons in Canada is Zetland Lodge, Toronto. Many of the leading business men of the city are members. At a recent meeting, by a large majority vote, it was resolved to banish all alcoholic liquors from its banquets and other entertainments. This action it was stated, was in keeping with the prevailing sentiments of the country; and it will contribute no little to strengthen and increase temperance sentiment and practice. Of the score of Lodges in Toronto only one now permits the use of alcoholics at Lodge tables. We have not the figures to support the statement, but we venture to believe that a majority of Mason's Lodges the country over, by practice if not by formal resolutions, are regularly declaring against the drink habit.

Probably the most Evangelical Congregational minister in London is Dr. Morgan. Yet his opinion of special evangelistic missions is not favorable. The Torrey-Alexander mission in London was not a success, and achieved little in proportion to the great cost. Dr. Morgan states his growing conviction that the true line for evangelizing London is that of working in and through the churches. He suggests a great conference of all the Free Churches in London for prayerful discussion of the evangelisation of their parishes. Dr. Morgan's frank expressions of these opinions, save a contemporary, should have weight. Meetings by nondescript lay evangelists in halls or tents, apart from the churches, do not seem the best way of securing permanent spiritual results.

A useful suggestion will be found in the following taken from a contemporary: It seems to be forgotten often that it is bad tactics for a minister in the pulpit, or a teacher in the class, to call attention to discomforts which may be occasioned by the weather or other conditions beyond control. No matter if the public mention be indulgent and apologetic, the temperature usually becomes hotter, the restlessness less controllable, and the disposition to "cut" attendance is quickened. Tonic, not laxation, is the need of the hot weather. The baseball fields and other places of sport are crowded with enthusiasts, not by emphasizing the heat, the hardness of the seats, and the other unpleasant features. Let there be an end to the suggesting of discouragements to church devotion by those whose duty it is to encourage fidelity.

From all accounts the Protestant Church is making good headway and decided progress in the Philippines despite the opposition and difficulties it encounters. As an example, we quote the following from The Herald and Presbyter: "The growth of our Presbyterian Church in the Philippine Islands is one of the most encouraging elements in our Christian work of these passing years." Beginning about eight years ago without a communicant in the islands our missionaries have gone on with their work until now we have over eight thousand communicants, some twenty ministers, several of whom are natives, some eighty local evangelists who are earnestly at work, some eighty organized churches in various islands, and over twenty-one hundred members received into the Church during the past year. The persecution to which these converts have been subject is characteristic of Romanism and Spanish influences combined. The long record of Spanish friar oppression, cruelty, avarice and impurity has had its effect of alienating four-fifths of all the intelligent inhabitants of the islands from Rome, but there remain large masses of the people under the domination of their priests, and these have manifested their hatred of Protestantism in many ways. Converts have been attacked, their chapels burned, and one of our Presbyterian ministers was killed by a mob headed by a Roman Catholic priest. But the work has not been stopped in this way. As it was in the early Church, persecutions have the effect of multiplying converts.