

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

A writer in the New York Observer gives an account of Christian life and work at Harvard University which indicates a vigorosity and aggressiveness which may not have believed existed there.

A woman of sixty six has been convicted of witchcraft in Pennsylvania,—that is, of defrauding persons by "necromancy and false pretences." She will not, however, be either burned at stake or boiled alive.

The Zenana Bible and Medical Mission has just issued the Zenana for 1902. It is handsomely bound and beautifully illustrated, and gives interesting particulars of the mission's useful and successful work.

The old historic church of Craigdam, Aberdeenshire, of which the Rev. D. K. Auchterlonie is minister, enters upon its 150th year next month, and Ter-jubilee services are to be held on Wednesday, 5th, and Sabbath, 9th November.

The China Inland Mission has opened new offices for the United States in the Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia. The offices in Toronto are to be maintained, as representing the work in Canada. A missionary home has also been opened in Norristown, Pa.

According to the annual report, just issued, of the Commissioner of Education at Washington there were 17,209,230 pupils enrolled in public and private schools in the United States in the year ended 30th June, 1902, an increase of 278,520 pupils over the preceding year.

The London Mail says it understands that the government will next week ask parliament to vote a grant of \$10,000,000 for the benefit of those residents of the Transvaal who remained loyal to Great Britain during the war in South Africa, in addition to the \$15,000,000 granted under the peace treaty.

John Alexander Dowie evidently does not despise the day of small things, remarks the Lutheran Observer, in spite of his claim that he is worth in his own right over \$23,000,000. A sweeping appeal for funds dated at Zion City, October 8th, has been addressed to every member and officer and many friends of his church: "Any one having \$5 to loan will please communicate with John Alexander Dowie, general overseer of the Christian Catholic Church. The 'five' will be gladly received, and its owner will be promised 6 per cent. interest on his investment." The appeal for five-dollar loans is rather remarkable from the second "Elijah" who gathers to himself the tithes of all his dupes. It is astonishing how much men put up with when once they have made up their minds to be deceived.

Japan has just had a general election in which the opposing candidates represented

the parties supporting or opposing the upholding of the constitution. Taking the returns generally, the results favored the party of the constitution. The result is a triumph for progressive Japan, although the returns show that the reactionary element is still very strong,

The Supreme Court of the State of Washington has decided that a Japanese cannot become a citizen of the United States. This point came up in the matter of admission of a young Japanese lawyer to the bar of the State, the law making citizenship a qualification for admission. A similar decision was recently made by Judge Carter, of Chicago.

It is stated that eight hundred Presbyterian churches in the United States are without pastors, says the Religious Intelligencer. It is also said that there are more than eight hundred Presbyterian ministers waiting to be called to churches. It ought to be possible to get the unemployed preachers and the unoccupied pulpits together. And the same in other denominations.

Dr. Guinness Rogers has made the name of Grafton Square Church, Clapham, a household word in Congregational circles. He began his historic pastorate there in 1865, on leaving Newcastle on Tyne, and closed it in 1900. His successor is the Rev. E. W. Lewis, who was trained at Lancashire College, and he has inaugurated his ministry by having the church premises renovated and a new organ erected at the cost of £2000. Dr. Rogers is still engaged in preaching every Sunday.

In reading In Memoriam it is difficult to realize, says F. B. Myers, that the book was written by a young man, some half-century ago; so little is there in all its range of thought and emotion, which the newest science can condemn or the truest religion find lacking. So sound an instinct has led the poet to dwell on the core of religion—namely, the survival of human love and human virtue—so genuine a candour has withheld him from insisting too positively on his own hopeful belief.

Mr. John Kensit has died in Liverpool Royal Infirmary from injuries received when he was assaulted recently. Mr. Kensit had addressed a meeting at Birkenhead in furtherance of the views of the "Wycliffe Preachers," and when he was leaving he was struck on the head with a chisel. He ceased to be identified with church work from his youth, and created scenes in many churches while protesting against what he regarded as ritualistic practices in the Church of England.

More than a thousand vessels pass every year through the Welland Canal. For thirty-four years Rev. Thomas Bone has been a missionary to the sailors on these ships. One day a rough sailor said to him: "Go along, you dog!" Quick as a flash came the answer: "I thank

you for the title. I hope I will be a 'Good Shepherd's' dog to go for the stray sheep and bring them back without worrying them." This is the way a true missionary will do—get an advantage even out of opposition.

Appeals made with shovels, hoe, plow cultivators, etc., God answers with vegetables and corn. We have no sympathy with any kind of expectations built upon absolute faith. That is like this, God says, "I shall not want," therefore I can lazy around all summer and expect a full larder in the fall. Devil wanted Jesus to cast himself down from the pinnacle of the temple on the same principle, "Faith without work (means used), is dead," therefore Christian Science is false.—The Midland.

A correspondent of the United Presbyterian (Pittsburg) writes: "The Church Hymnary" has not found so great favor in the ancient churches of our faith and worship in the British Isles after all. According to the latest official returns, in the 1606 congregations of the old Kirk of Scotland, only 570, just about one-third, are reported as using this latest compilation of Presbyterian (?) songs, while in the Presbyterian church in Ireland, the proportion of congregations using the book in any of their services is much smaller, only 167 out of nearly 700 organizations having adopted it, and some of these only to a very limited degree.

Great changes have been made in Balmoral Castle since Queen Victoria was last in residence there. All the principal reception-rooms have been redecorated and upholstered with handsome brocades. The drawing room of the "old" Balmoral was of the most typical early Victorian description, hung with white paper patterned in gold, and upholstered in the Balmoral tartan designed by the Prince Consort. This tartan grey with red stripes, appeared everywhere in the castle even the late Queen's bedroom being hung with it, and was worn by the gillies on the Royal estate. The bedroom of Queen Victoria, in which are a number of small photographs of members of the Royal Family, is left as it was at the time of her death, but everywhere else a regular transformation has been effected.

The Ottawa Free Press suggests that perhaps the Christian Scientists might be induced to treat the Doukhobors by "absent treatment." The people of Yorkton will doubtless wish for "absent" patients as well as for "absent" treatment. In order to improve the service at the insane asylum and to promote the comfort of the unfortunate patients, the Ontario provincial secretary has instituted an improved course of training for attendants. The new course which is at present in the nature of an experiment, provides for the instruction of asylum attendants in treatment of patients, similar to that received by hospital nurses. Attendants entering on the course will be required to undertake to remain at the institution until they graduate and will be granted a diploma after two years of lectures and training.