

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Cholera has broken out among the pilgrims at Mecca, and also at Medina, 248 miles away.

There were 763 persons arrested at Moscow, February 22, as a result of the students disturbances.

It is announced that his Grace of Canterbury has given way to the Archbishop of York in the rival claims for the privilege of crowning the Queen Consort at the Coronation.

Nine students went direct from the Ottawa Business College to good positions during the first week in March. Over Two Hundred have been in attendance during the past six months.

It is possible that no appointment will be made to the vacancy in the Chair of Hebrew in the Old College, Edinburgh, as Professor Paterson was joint-professor with the late Professor Davidson, and he may now be made sole Professor.

When asked by his publisher to write him a short autobiography, Bjornstjerne Bjornsen, the poet, of Christina, wrote—"I was born in 1832, and have been done to death in Christina many times, the last time in November, 1901, but not quite completely."

President Roosevelt just spent fifteen minutes last week on the Boer delegates, who with such high hopes visited him to get the United States to intervene on behalf of the Boers in their war with Britain. Politely but firmly he assured them that the United States was simply going to continue minding its own business.

A sojourner among the hardy races in the Arctic region states that every peasant there is a born carpenter, whatever trade he may hereafter adopt. Every boy learns the use of the axe in chopping firewood, and every man builds his own sledge and homestead. Like the sledges and houses, the boats are built almost entirely of wood, with the two invaluable tools—axe and chisel.

"Clara in Blunderland" is the title of a new political satire announced for publication in London. Obviously the author has used "Alice in Wonderland" as a foundation for his skit, and it is said that parodies of Tenniel's drawings will illustrate the book. Peter Newell is now as closely associated with this book as Tenniel himself, having illustrated the best recent edition of "Alice."

A new religious sect has started in Russia, called Podpoiniki, which signifies "Dwellers Under the Earth." They pledge themselves to care for all fugitives from justice, vagabonds, deserters from the army, and other miserable beings, whom they hide away in clefts or holes in rocks. Those

among their own people who fall sick are treated in the same way, but are left without food or drink of any kind. Every two or three days they visit the sick. Should any be dead they are buried secretly, but not before the corpses are baptized and have received a new name in order that the soul may appear spotless before the throne of heaven.

The late Dr. Newman Hall's first attempt at outdoor preaching was to a company of hop-pickers in his native town of Maidstone. One of his first regular sermons as a student was preached on June 28th, 1838, in the Town Hall of the same place; the occasion being the memorable one of Queen Victoria's Coronation. The text taken for the sermon was "The King of kings, and Lord of lords." Dr. Newman Hall was one of the very few ministers who preached at both the Coronation and the Diamond Jubilee services of the late Queen.

In John Burrough's later essays he makes frequent reference to certain "neighbors" of his who live near his own home, "Slab-sides," on the west bank of the Hudson, in the vicinity of Kingston. The neighbors so mentioned are Mr. Ernest Ingersol, the naturalist, his wife and their very companionable dog. Mr. Ingersol was born in Monroe, Michigan, but has lived for many years in the East. The Harpers have just published his "Wild Life of Orchard and Field," a revised and extended edition of "Friends Worth Knowing," an admirable out-of-doors book.

A remarkable scheme has been set on foot by some influential Christian men for the extensive distribution of Bibles, New Testaments, and single Gospels in India, in memory of the late queen-empress. Although the vast majority of the Indian people cannot read, there are probably now 25,000,000 who can, and education is spreading rapidly. The idea is that Christians in England should give one or more copies of God's Word (or part of it) to each reading native; and it is suggested that men should send to men, women to women, children to children. It is a vast undertaking; but the plans have been worked out with great energy and skill, and the response has been remarkable.

Lord Rosebery's popularity in Scotland is well known. Scotchmen have unbounded faith in his ability and intense admiration for his oratory. This was once demonstrated in an amusing fashion. His Lordship was addressing a huge political gathering in Edinburgh. He was approaching his peroration, and was thundering forth his closing sentences with all his accustomed skill. The meeting was roused to a tremendous pitch of enthusiasm. At the back of the hall stood an old man of farmer-like aspect. He was straining his ears to catch what His Lordship was saying. But in vain. He could not hear. At last when the audience again broke into a torrent of cheers and applause, the old man rapturously shouted:—"Man, it's grand; it's grand! I canna hear a word he's sayin', but it's grand, it's grand!"

The Earl of Aberdeen has just finished arranging an interesting series of monumental tablets in the ancient churchyard of Haddo House, picturesquely situated around the ruins of a very old church, the walls of which are heavily draped with ivy, the badge of the Gordon family. In the centre of the burial-ground has been placed a very fine Celtic cross, of beautiful white granite, to the memory of the fifth and sixth Earls, the latter being the one who, after a romantic career, was drowned on the voyage between Boston and Melbourne during a storm. The other tablets are nearly forty in number, and form quite a genealogy of the Haddo branch of the Gordon family.

The recent heavy snowstorms, which for several days have partially blocked the enormous traffic of New York city, brought to light three curious machines employed by the Street Cleaning Department for the removal of snow. In general appearance these snow melters resemble a road roller without rollers. In place of the forward rollers is a large iron box, into which a dozen men shovel snow. Behind the box and extending to the rear end of the machine is a boiler, from which two funnel-shaped pipes about a foot in diameter extend into the box. Steam is forced from these pipes through jets into the box. The water runs down into a sewer. In eleven hours one machine removed 750 yards of snow. Nine teams were able to do the work for which seventy-five were formerly required.

Leo XIII. was 92 years old on Sunday, March 2. He was made Cardinal in 1846; Chamberlain of the Sacred College in 1877, and Pope in 1878. Despite the fact that at different times in recent years he has been reported ill and nigh unto death, he has survived to celebrate the twenty-fourth anniversary of his coronation as Pope, and the ninety-second anniversary of his birth. The chief ceremony in the celebration took place on the third of March in the basilica of St. Peter's, Rome, which was witnessed by 50,000 people. Thirty Cardinals, many Archbishops and Bishops, members of the Pontifical Court, members of the diplomatic corps and the Roman nobility, all in magnificent vestments or uniforms, participated in the ceremony, and formed a striking spectacle. The Pope was borne, in the sedia gestatoria, preceded by the Pontifical Court, and surrounded by nobles, to the throne, amid the acclamations of the vast assemblage. Cardinal Vannutelli intoned the mass, the Pontifical choir chanted the Te Deum, and his holiness pronounced the papal benediction, beyond which he did not participate in the service. The anniversary was observed with more or less pomp and ceremony throughout the Roman Catholic Church. The Pope has greatly interested himself in the suppression of African slavery, and has shown enlightened views in other directions, but on questions affecting the church and his status as Pontiff he has staunchly held to his rights. He regards himself as the despoiled sovereign of Rome, and as a prisoner at the Vatican, and has refused the income voted him by the Italian parliament. In his foreign policy he has generally exhibited moderation and foresight.