

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment

Practically every third man in the British Army in India is a total abstainer.

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The English Parliament recently passed a bill compelling shopkeepers to provide seats for their women clerks.

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A Presbyterian layman of New York City paid the expenses of fifty-four Presbyterian ministers of that city at a recent conference at Northfield.

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In proportion to population, North Berwick is said to be the wealthiest town in Scotland. It has an annual value of real property per inhabitant of about £12.

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The Czechs of Bohemia have raised \$15,000 for a monument to that great reformer before the Reformation, John Huss. The government prohibits it thus far, but the Bohemians insist on having it and on placing it in the public square of Prague.

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It is not possible to pardon a man for a crime he never committed. But the French always strive after euphony. And they must, of course, endeavor to live up to their proverb that it is the impossible which always happens.

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Japan is to have an Arctic expedition. The Government wishes to develop in the Japanese the spirit of adventure and discovery which has rendered the English nation so powerful. The only places available for exploration by sea are the Arctic region of the north and the Antarctic region of the south.

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By a fall of rock which occurred recently at Niagara Falls the Horseshoe Falls has been restored to its proper shape from which it derives its name. Of late years the Fall has been nearly V-shaped, destroying much of its natural beauty. From 1842 to 1890 it is stated that 275,000,000 cubic feet of rock had fallen away.

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At the Pasteur Institute in Paris, 1465 persons were treated in 1898, and all but three were cured. For the thirteen years from the foundation of the Institute to the end of the year 1898, 13,181 persons were treated in Paris, and out of this number only 99 died.

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The railroads now in operation in Africa or under actual construction are nearly 10,000 miles in extent. About two-fifths of the distance from the Cape to Cairo has already been spanned by railroad lines. It is hoped they may meet at the equator about 1910. Already railroads run north from Cape Colony about 1400 miles, and south from Cairo about 1,100 miles, thus making 2,500 miles of the "Cape to Cairo" railroad complete. The intermediate distance is about 3,000 miles.

Many a case of typhoid fever is directly traceable to impure drinking water. A simple test, and one which all can try, is as follows: Draw a tumbler of water from the tap or pump at night; put a piece of white tump sugar in it and place the tumbler on the kitchen mantle shelf or anywhere that the temperature will not be under 60 degrees. In the morning the water, if pure, will be perfectly clear, while if contaminated by impurities, the water will be milky. This is said to be a sure test.

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Japan, not Russia, is now dominant in Korea. She is skilfully crowding Russia out of the peninsula. At present Russia holds only three small sites on the Korean coast on a lease of twelve years under the supervision of the maritime company. Japan is also in close relations with China. The recent overtures from China to Japan have disturbed Russia. The latter has uttered a warning against an alliance between the two former. It is understood that China has proposed to give to Japan the sole control of the mines and most of the railway lines in the provinces where foreign influence is dreaded. The two nations seem to be making common cause against western aggression.

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After all, beer does not keep down drunkenness in Germany, though such claim has been often and persistently made. So great has been the increase of drunkenness in that country of late, that the government has become alarmed, and has been led to announce a severe measure. After New Year's day of 1900, every habitual drunkard—and this includes every one who "in consequence of inebriety cannot provide for his affairs or endanger the safety of others"—may be put under the care of a curator who has power to place him in a curative institution as long as may seem necessary.

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In Belfast, Ireland, Berné, Switzerland; Cork, Ireland; Marseilles, France; Prague, Austria, and Sydney, Australia, the street car fare is two cents for any distance. In Dublin, the fare is a cent a mile. In Berlin it is two and a half cents for the first two miles and one cent for each additional mile. In Florence, Italy, it is two cents from the outskirts to the center of the city and three cents across the city. In Paris the fare inside the 'busses and cars is six cents and three cents a seat on the top. In Calcutta, India, the fares run from two and a half to four and a half cents a mile. In Ghent, Belgium, Lyons, France and other cities, there are different fares for first and second-class seats.

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Considerable changes have taken place in the arrangements for the World's C.E. Convention, to be held in London in July, 1900. Partly owing to the strong feeling of many Endeavorers against the opening of the Crystal Palace on Sundays it is proposed to give up the Crystal Palace gathering, and to hold the entire series of meetings, with the excep-

tion of the Sunday services, and a great welcome meeting at the Albert Hall, at Wembley Park. The whole park will be engaged for the time of the Convention, and the greater part of its 250 acres will be occupied by huge encampments for delegates and tents to accommodate audiences totalling to about 50,000.

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On a recent Sabbath morning Rev. A. Connell, Regent Square Presbyterian Church, London, intimated to his congregation two slight alterations which he proposed making in the service of the Church. He had often noticed how strangers joined in the Lord's Prayer, and he hoped his own people would find courage to raise their voices when he began the petition, and after the offering had been taken he wished the worshippers to sing the doxology every Sabbath, and he would give the signal for beginning by standing up; then when the singing ceased he would pronounce the concluding blessing.

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The great Pan-Presbyterian Council at Washington brought together some three hundred of the most influential representatives of Presbyterianism throughout the world. The Rev. Dr. MacVicar, principal of the Montreal Presbyterian College, was, for the seventh time, a delegate from the Presbyterian Assembly, and on his return was interviewed by a Witness reporter to whom he gave the following impressions of the gathering: "The absence of so many familiar faces produced a rather painful impression. Death had called away such noted men as Drs. McCosh, Cairns, Hall, Chambers, Schaff, Blaikie, Hoage, etc., who were wont to take part in a gathering which attracts delegates from all parts of the world. The programme submitted, according to the doctor, might have been a little fresher in some respects. The programme for 1905, at the meeting in Liverpool, will be much more up to date, as by that time certain grave questions will press for discussion. On the other hand, such questions as evolution and the higher criticism were discussed, with much ability, the spirit of progress not being incompatible with loyalty to the Bible. Dr. McCook, of Philadelphia, was singularly forceful and eloquent upon the subject of evolution, remarking that if, as some young minds were in the habit of thinking, religion was an evolution, then there must be a best, and Christianity was the best, 'which,' added Dr. MacVicar, 'is abundantly proved by the beneficence and civilization which have flowed from it, surpassing all the systems of the past.' Dr. Lang, of Glasgow, the president, was able, and was particularly interesting in his allusion to the hop-skip-and-jump method by which a knowledge of the Bible was acquired nowadays in the Sunday-schools. The habit of personal visitation of families and of holding catechetical examinations in the Scriptures, was a thing of the past—a fact which was much to be regretted. 'The hospitality was unbounded,' said the doctor, 'and the reception given by the President of the United States was at once dignified and cordial. When I was presented he made flattering reference to Montreal and Canada.'"