

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

In a number of strong Protestant cantons of Switzerland the separation of Church and State is being vigorously agitated, owing largely to the aggressiveness of the Roman Catholic party.

Universalism seems to be dying out in the United States. The present membership is 53,617, or nearly 500 less than were reported a year ago. Contributions are less by \$98,000.

Mr. J. W. McKean, of the Missionary American Sunday School Union, stationed at Santa Fe, New Mexico, is authority for the statement that there are counties in that State in which there are from 2,000 to 3,000 Protestants and not a Protestant church of any kind.

Affidavits in Mrs. Eddy's case show that she has in the bank \$780,770 in securities, besides several thousand dollars in savings banks and elsewhere. She has made religion pay better than the Saviour did. The Concord assessors now hold that Mrs. Eddy has been a tax-dodger.

While Protestant Christians contribute altogether nearly \$20,000,000 annually for the spread of Christianity and civilization throughout the world, the appropriations made by Great Britain, Germany, France and Italy for their respective armies each equal nearly the same sum.

At the recent meeting of the Foreign Mission Committee (West) the following appointments were made: Rev. T. A. Broadfoot, B.A., B.D., of Winnipeg, to Macao; Rev. Duncan McLeod, B.A., Brandon, to Formosa; Miss Anna M. Nairn, of Galt, to India, and Miss Rachel McLean, of Stayner, to Macao. It is very probable that Rev. A. Dunn, M. A., of Calgary, will go to India.

The ter-centenary of the "English" Reformed church at Amsterdam took place in the ancient church at the Begijnhof in the Kalverstraat, which dates from the year 1400. The building was originally the chapel of a nunnery, and it is still surrounded by the Beguinage inhabited by the sisters. In 1578 it was handed over by the ruling powers to those who embraced the principles of the Reformed faith and in 1607 it became the place of worship for the British colony, then largely composed of exiled Puritans.

The Christian Intelligencer refers in congratulatory terms to the obvious growth of public opinion in many countries in support of the Sabbath as a day for rest and worship, summing up with the following deliverance: "Our continuance as a Christian nation largely depends on the observance of the Lord's day in obedience to the Divine command, and its hallowing for spiritual profit. Rest one day in seven it is growingly recognized is essential for the doing of efficient work in the other six, and laws are framed more and more widely to insure this to the laborer; but not less is a Sabbath of worship essential to Christian nurture and living, and this after all is the most important feature in the movement for Sabbath observance. The Christian, the moral and law-abiding people of Canada, can make no mistake in standing up firmly for the maintenance of the Christian Sabbath.

The English Presbyterian Synod's Committee on Narrative reports 345 congregations. During the year the sustentation fund received \$246,090, and the various mission enterprises \$254,425. The synod will be asked to provide a place of worship for Presbyterian students at Oxford. Not a few of the 4,000 students attending the colleges there are connected with Presbyterian churches at home. In the last thirty-one years the Presbyterians of London have established thirty-one congregations, and some of these are now among the most important in the city.

When, on April 11, the Chinese Government issued a decree for the establishment of schools for girls, it included among the regulations rules which enjoined a simple mode of dress, and forbade pupils to use silks, satins, cosmetics and jewellery. Further, the Government urged the abandonment of the "cruel and injurious" practice of foot-binding, and announced that it would provide gymnasiums and exercise grounds for the physical culture and health of the pupils. Such a proposition for physical culture for girls would have been a wild innovation even on this continent 50 years ago.

The revival spirit continues in Wales. Asked as to present conditions there, Evan Roberts said, recently: "After the storm the calm—not of stagnation, but of settled conviction—not so much ecstasy, but much peace." As was to be expected, some have turned away, but the proportion is not large. The quickened spiritual life of the churches is distinctly permanent. The fire is burning, and the churches have grown in power and influence. Scenes of the Spirit's baptism are repeated, and in some instances intensified. In some churches the daily prayer-meetings, inaugurated many months ago, are continued, and ingathering goes on.

Hard time as the German Socialists had in finding a place to meet, their Russian brothers in the cause had a still harder one. The Germans merely travelled about in Germany from town to town; the Russians have to travel from land to land. Finding it impossible to meet in Russia, they went to Finland. Proscribed in Finland, they resorted to Denmark. Ordered out of Denmark, they repaired to Sweden. Forbidden to hold a conference in Sweden, they asked permission to assemble in Norway. Refused permission to assemble in Norway, they departed for England, where they have been allowed to confer. All this inconvenience for holding an opinion!

At the opening of the Jamestown Exposition, President Roosevelt gave utterance to the following prophecy: "This great republic shall never become the government of a plutocracy and it shall never become the government of a mob. God willing it shall remain what our fathers who founded it meant it to be—a government in which each man stands on his worth as a man." The Presbyterian Standard adds: "It was just this sort of Democracy that John Knox stood for and his followers, the Presbyterians of Scotland, and later in America, stood for, and thousands died for. It is the legacy they left us to enjoy in our land today." Nevertheless the plutocrat is very much in evidence among our neighbors.

The population of England and Wales increased last year almost exactly four hundred thousand by the excess of births over deaths. The rate of both births and deaths was below the average for the last ten years. The birth rate of twenty-seven, was a decrease of 1.7 below the average for the last ten years, and the death rate, below 15.4 per thousand, was 1.4 less than in preceding years.

Four Britishers, all of whom were in some way associated with the evangelistic labors of Mr. D. L. Moody, will be among the leading speakers at the Northfield Conference this season. Of these Rev. F. B. Meyer and Rev. G. Campbell Morgan are well known in Canada. Mr. Meyer was, until recently, at the head of the great work of Christ church, London. Mr. Morgan is in charge of Westminster and reaches multitudes of the people. The others are Rev. William R. Lane, evangelist of the Free Church Council, and Rev. Stewart Holden, pastor of Portland chapel.

Warm Weather Drinks: A French medical journal says: "Water should be drunk cool, but not iced, with the juice of a quarter or half a lemon in it. Mineral water should also be drunk with half a lemon. Water should always be swallowed slowly. It is not the stomach which is dry, but the mouth and throat. If you toss off a drink of water you throw it through your mouth and into your stomach without doing the former any good, while you injure the latter by loading it with what it does not require. Drink slowly, and keep the water in your mouth for a moment when you begin. If you work in a hot room in hot weather, tie a damp cloth around your temples, and you will not experience half the cravings for drink you otherwise would."

Students of religious conditions in England are said to be concerned over a notable decline in the matter of Sunday observance and family worship, and with much unanimity find a chief cause of the lessened attendance at church and the weakened religious influence of the home, to be the popular week-end excursions offered by the railroads. These take increasing numbers away from home over the Sabbath, tend to break up the habit of church attendance and to destroy the family ties cemented and strengthened by a properly observed day of rest. There is a growing demand for an arrest of this provocative cause of Sabbath breaking. In the United States, says the Christian Intelligencer, it is certain that the Sunday excursion is productive of like results. It converts the Lord's Day into a mere holiday, and increasing numbers are led to spend the day of God given rest in away which yields weariness rather than refreshment, and deprives the soul of the appointed means of spiritual benefit. The same paper says it is gratifying to note on the part of some railroads a disposition to arrest this evil, and thus give to their employees a rest day, as well as to remove the temptation to Sunday dissipation from the public by a discontinuance of excursion rates and trains on that day. In Virginia, at a conference between representatives of a number of railroads and an interdenominational church commission, the railway people agreed to the discontinuance of Sunday excursion rates in the future.