

The Presbyterian Review.

Vol. XII.—No. 25.

TORONTO, DECEMBER 26, 1895

\$1.50 per Annum

The Christmas Dinner Bell.

Now listen for the Christmas bells that ring out, loud and clear,
A welcome for the holidays, the best of all the year.
From the smallest to the greatest they add their cheery song
To swell the living chorus which gayly floats along.

Oh, the merry Christmas bells!
Oh, the cheery Christmas bells!

There's nothing like the music of the merry Christmas bells.

There's a tiny little tinkle when the moon is shining bright,
When Santa Claus comes travelling with his reindeers prancing
light,

And they ring a hearty promise of the treasures to be found
When the breakfast bell shall waken happy youngsters—blessed
sound!

O, the merry midnight bell!
O, the early morning bell!

When the children rub their sleepy eyes and hurry down pell-mell.

But a bell is ringing later, and the echo of its noise
Is the jolliest in all the world to merry girls and boys.
Does any music ever heard such wondrous visions bring
Of everything delightful, as that jingle, jingle, jing?

If you listen you will hear
All its promise of good cheer,

As it adds its clang of greeting to this crowning of the year.

How! it laughs amid its din,
As it rings the people in!

How the children wait and wonder, all impatient to begin!

And their bonny eyes are bright
At the gay and goodly sight

Of the dainties and the dainties and the sparkle and the light.

Oh, of all the bells the bell
With the tale of joy to tell!

Oh, the jolly, jolly jingle of the Christmas dinner bell.

SYDNEY DATRE.

OVER LAND AND SEA.

Rev. R. P. MacKay has received letters announcing the safe arrival at Honan, China, of Mrs Goforth and her companions. The missionaries report encouraging prospects.

The following indication of improved business outlook is from R. G. Dun & Co's bulletin: One of the largest manufacturers in the Ottawa Valley district, the E. B. Eddy Co., whose works turn out chiefly paper, paper bags, matches and woodenware, in reply to an enquiry as to the condition of trade, reports that during the past four months 36% car loads were shipped from the factories, and that orders were keeping up well.

There is a gate on the eastern wall of the city of Jerusalem, supposed by some to have been the "Beautiful Gate" of the Temple. It is not only closed, but walled with large stones, and the Turks would now allow it to be opened under any circumstances, owing to a tradition that when once the gate is opened the Jews will return, and the Turks will have to leave the country. A few months ago they surrounded the interior of that gate with a wall, thus preventing anyone from even seeing it;

In connection with the M'All Evangelistic French Mission a meeting of the Manchester Auxiliary was held last week in the Y.M.C.A. Rooms. Mr. William Soltau, the Secretary from France, reported that the work there had

continued successful and without any break since the death of Dr. M'All. The following figures apply to last year:— Total number of meetings, 21,780—viz., 8,540 Paris, 13,240 in the provinces, including Gospel and temperance meetings, mothers' classes, etc. Over 23,000 domiciliary visits were paid, and 535,000 copies of the Scriptures and tracts were distributed, the expenditure being £15,717 9s. 4d. The local Secretary (Mr. John Sugden) stated that the Manchester contributions amounted to £245.

The abomination of opium has never received a more stinging blow than the following statement made by Miss Ackermann: "When I was speaking on the opium question, a high-class Brahmin arose in the audience and said: I should like to have you answer me one question. Here in India the poppy is cultivated; opium is manufactured by the Government; every ball of opium that goes out from factories bears the stamp and seal of the British crown. When I was in England I went to a chemist, and I said to him, 'I want some opium.' He said: 'Where is your prescription?' 'I have no prescription.' 'You must get it; you must go to a physician and get a prescription before we can sell you any opium.' I went to a physician and the prescription was written out, and the opium was placed in my hands, and it was marked "poison." 'Now,' he said, 'can you tell why it is that to England's white-skinned subjects it is sold as poison, and to its dark-skinned subjects it is sold as food? I could go out to the nearest opium-den and buy opium enough to poison a hundred men. Can you explain this to me?'"

We have learned many things about Japan since the recent war began, and there is instruction in the study of the customs of that wonderful country. The other day a great ship was launched in this country, and a bottle of wine was broken upon her prow. About the same time a vessel was launched in Japan. A cage of birds of different kinds was provided, and when the ship began to move, the top was taken off and the birds were liberated, flying to all points of the compass, and typifying, the nature of commerce far better than a bottle of wine. This is one of the customs which we can afford to borrow from Japan.

A clause has been inserted in the New Zealand Licensing Bill providing for the closing of club bars at the same time as hotel bars—10 p.m. in country places and 11 p.m. in large cities—with no drinking whatever on Sundays.

Madame Melba sang for the Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago and said: "I am proud to say that I am a Presbyterian and a Scotch Presbyterian, too." The diva used to sing in one of our choirs in Australia. She has a great career before her.

The great Sahara Desert of Africa is regarded as the hottest region in the world. The vast plain—which extends 3,400 miles from east to west and 900 from north to south—has a temperature of 150 deg. Fahr, in the hottest days of summer.