

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

The Postmaster-General has authorized the issue of \$10 postal notes. The commission on these postal notes is only five cents, and it will be a convenient and safe way of sending money a receipt being given. The postal note issue has been much appreciated by the public.

The Registrar General for Ireland, in his report for 1902, shows an increasing marriage rate (higher than any rate in the past ten years), a decreasing death rate, and an emigration rate which was not above the average, and much lower than in 1895. In Ireland tuberculosis is responsible for fewer deaths each year.

Nov. 27th was the 108th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Carlyle. It is stated that during the past 12 months 500 more visitors have visited the house wherein he lived and died in Cheyne Row, Chelsea, London, than during any similar period since it was opened as a kind of museum eight years ago.

The cause of temperance, as far as respects the prohibition of the saloon, is making more progress in the South than in any other portion of the United States. Nearly all the Southern States permit prohibition in counties, and as prohibition to be effective must have back of it public sentiment it seems wise to confine it to localities where the anti liquor sentiment predominates.

Two veterans of the disruption in Scotland—Dr. Thomas Smith and Dr. G. Philip, recently celebrated their diamond jubilees. They lived laborious lives and exercised their brains for many years, but they are still hale and hearty. The Glasgow Leader says: "Both these men demonstrate the fact that there is a direct connection between long life and Gospel living and preaching." Both reside in Edinburgh.

When the calendar year closes it is likely that Canada will have gained over 130,000 arrivals, or about 50,000 more than the year previous. Of this number more than one-fourth were Britishers. The Deputy Minister of the Interior, Mr. James A. Smart, will probably visit the Western States before starting for Europe. Efforts to obtain settlers are to be redoubled in the adjoining republic as well as on the other side of the Atlantic.

The Young Men's Christian Association of McGill University, Montreal, is to erect in close proximity to the University buildings a large, first class building for the Y.M.C.A. which will cost \$95,000. Already the Association has \$85,000 subscribed, and there is no doubt the remaining \$10,000 will be forth coming. We congratulate McGill, says the Presbyterian Witness. The religious element has long been duly recognized in this University. The late Principal, Sir William Dawson, was pre eminently a Christian and never was ashamed of his loyalty to Christ. Leading members of the staff in like manner, stood forth before the public as consistent and exemplary disciples of Christ. It would be a deplorable thing if the post, held so

long and so usefully by Sir William Dawson should ever pass into the possession of any man who did not acknowledge the Lord Christ as his Lord and Master. Such a calamity be far from McGill! The fact of the Y.M.C.A. taking so fine a stride to the front will influence for good the present and the unknown future.

It appears that the danger to Queen Alexandra from the fire at Sandringham two weeks ago, was very much exaggerated by the Press generally. Nevertheless her escape caused thankfulness to millions. Since first she went to England, forty years ago, a Danish princess of rare beauty of form and sweetness of disposition, to wed the heir apparent to the British throne, the love of the people of her adopted country has increasingly been hers.

The year's consumption of tobacco in the United States alone, a writer in Everybody's Magazine states, will include seven billions of cigars, ten billions of cigarettes and two hundred and eighty millions of pounds of manufactured tobacco. What an awful waste of money this represents—to say nothing of the injury to health among the victims of the weed. And what an amount of good could be accomplished if the money value of that tobacco could be turned into channels of usefulness.

A brief but at the same time one of the most masterly articles on Mr. Morley's "Life of Gladstone" is that contributed to the December "Leisure Hour" by Principal Rainy. It will be read with the peculiar interest attaching to one great man's estimate of another. As might be anticipated, it lays great emphasis on Mr. Gladstone's devoutness. "This," says the writer "was the element that sustained and dignified his life. It gave him the confidence of many who on theological, as on other details were far from being at one with him; they saw that he feared God."

The Spectator, the Methodist organ of Melbourne, Australia, indicates that sentiment in the Commonwealth is strong in favor of union between the Presbyterian and Methodist bodies. The final meeting of the joint committee on union of the two bodies prepared a statement of the points of difference in doctrine, polity, and worship, and expressed satisfaction that these were so few and comparatively unimportant. The points of agreement between the two bodies were held to be many and vital. The next General Conference and General Assembly will be asked to consider definitely the question of desirability of union.

Some years ago, the Christian Observer presented an estimate of the number of Catholics who have migrated to the United States and of their immediate descendants. That estimate was about twenty millions. But the estimated number of Catholics then in that country was about eight or ten millions. The Observer argued that that church loses a great many of its Catholic immigrants. Very recently in the Berlin Germania, a Catholic Journal, there has appeared a similar estimate, to the effect that the Catholic

immigrants to the United States with their descendants ought to number twenty-four million. But its statistics report less than eleven million. The Observer, says: "The fact appears plainly that in this country Romanism cannot retain its own members. But what becomes of those who are thus lost? By no means are they all brought into the Protestant church. And men without religion are just as dangerous to our welfare as men with an erroneous religion."

The opium traffic still flourishes in India, to the shame of the British Government be it said, for while the Government of India has a monopoly of the trade, responsibility for its perpetuation rests in the last analysis with the home authorities. About 600,000 acres of the best land in India are said to be given up to the cultivation of opium, and during the last four years nearly 30,000,000 pounds have been produced. The bulk of this goes year by year to China, carrying with it degradation and death, while the Indian government receives a revenue return. Little wonder, says the Canadian Baptist, that men like Dr. MacLaren, and Dr. Clifford have become impatiently indignant at the continuation of this national disgrace, and are uniting to bring influence to bear upon those responsible for it, in hope of wiping it out.

In his message to Congress President Roosevelt denounced the frauds which are every year perpetrated in the large centres of population in the United States in admitting newly arrived immigrants to citizenship. He says: "Forgeries and perjuries of shameless and flagrant character have been perpetrated, not only in the dense centres of population, but throughout the country; and it is established beyond doubt that very many so-called citizens of the United States have no title whatever to that right, and are asserting and enjoying the benefits of the same through the grossest frauds." Practically this is "stuffing" the electoral lists in the interests of the saloons, gambling halls and the hoodling classes, so that the moral and law-abiding forces of the country are often compelled to take a back seat.

"The next Revival" is a heading which nowadays appears frequently in religious journals and numerous suggestions are being made as to what will be its chief characteristic anyhow it will be brought about. The Presbyterian Banner points out that a genuine revival, like that of Pentecost, will be one of individual conversions—"the kind of revival we find in the Bible," or, as Dr. Cuyler says "a revival of righteousness." How it is to be brought about is thus described by the Banner: "Every pastor can throw himself into this work with renewed energy, and every congregation can hold special services for winning souls. No pastor or congregation needs to wait for a special evangelist or for help from the Evangelistic Committee in New York, but every church can immediately go to work itself with the old and well tried means of salvation. Let every Christian get interested in saving others and let us all call upon God for an outpouring of his Spirit, and the next revival will come upon us in mighty power."