

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

The educational authorities of Chicago have forbidden the teaching of British history in the Public schools! And this in the city blessed with the Chicago University and many other signs of civilization. Chicago will be ashamed of such stupidity by and by.

The church of England may be troubled and divided over Ritualism, but she has not lost her giving spirit. According to the "Official Year Book," her voluntary offerings amounted for the year to \$28,821,170.

The University of Edinburgh has decided to confer the degree of Doctor of Laws on Miss Eleanor Ormerod, who will be the first woman to receive this honor from that university. She has won much fame as an economic entomologist, and has spent twenty-three years in the study of insect pests.

A speaker at a Unitarian Convention declared that the "new orthodoxy" has got rid of the devil, the fall of man, and like pieces of the medieval scheme. There is no higher proof of the existence of a fallen moral nature than that a man, in view of all the manifested depravity on all sides, can deny that men are in a fallen state.

The cheering report is made that in the large cities of the United States the number of cases of blindness occurring in younger children is steadily diminishing. This is due partly to increasing knowledge on the part of the medical profession, partly to the advance of sanitation in home and school and partly to increased and more humane knowledge among the people.

Dr. Buckley in his commencement address at Northwestern University, said that the country was absolutely insane on "Christian Science." As a vice-president of one of the largest insane asylums in the country and as familiar with all the theories and beliefs of inmates, he asserted that none of the lunatics was capable of envying anything more absurd than the theory of Christian Science.

The body of Dr. St. George Mivart, whose death was announced April 2, has been deposited temporarily in an un consecrated vault in Kensal Green Cemetery, London. There was no funeral ceremony in consequence of the Roman Catholic ecclesiastical authority forbidding it, owing to his attitude toward certain dogmas of the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore, it was decided to use a temporary vault, pending a decision in whatever action may arise between the relatives of the deceased man and the Church authorities.

We regard a heresy trial says the Christian Advocate, in the same light that we do a surgical operation. If there is no occasion for it, it is butchery. If there is, and it is successful it is the happiest combination of science and art known to man. Amputation of diseased parts is never so important as when there is danger of blood poisoning if it is not done; for that means the injury of every member, and death itself. When that peril exists, the quicker the operation can be performed, the better, for the patient may not be able to survive the operation if it is delayed too long.

To those who while able to give much, give little and grudgingly to Christian missions, Dr. Parkhurst says a single dollar may look large, but when spread over a year it is too thin to lie down upon and pray: "Thy kingdom come."

Lord Lovat, who has organised a corps of about 150 Highland gillies, shepherds, and stalkers, all of whom will be mounted on their hardy little ponies, for service in South Africa, is the sixteenth baron of his line. He is twenty-eight years of age, and holds a commission in the 1st Life Guards. Lord Lovat owns over 181,000 acres.

The cosmopolitan character of the Boer army is singularly illustrated by one single hospital in South Africa, which required Bibles in the Gaelic, Dutch, German, Flemish, French, Swedish, Danish, Italian, Bulgarian, Croat, Magyar, Roumanian and Czech languages, all of which the British and Foreign Bible Society supplied.

The prevalence of suicide is one of the alarming features of the present day. An inquiry into its causes might reveal the fact that unbelief in the Christian religion may have much to do with this. When trouble comes on a man in the thins of his life, his support is the hope and consolation of the Christian faith. This saves from the despair which leads to self destruction. The cases of Saul and Judas in the Scriptures are full of awful meaning in this connection.

The Dowager Empress of China, it is asserted appears determined to relapse into the ancient conservatism. She issued an edict commanding a return in the old manner of study; according to the teachings of Confucius, for examinations for official rank and ordering the abolition of the study of the "Now depraved and erroneous subjects of the Western Schools," threatening with punishment the teachers of such subjects. The closing of the new university at Peking is expected to follow.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Kimberley writes to the "Boston Herald": "I can, with a safe conscience, say that I think that England very seldom had a more just cause for war. The state of things in the Transvaal was a scandal to the nations, Chamberlain's indictment of the Transvaal Government was perfectly fair. I have no hesitation in saying so, and I have had thirteen years to study the question. I am not an Englishman, as you know, nor are my sympathies in general with England; but in this case I do believe that England will do credit to our common humanity by forcing a small State calling itself a Republic to give equal rights to all."

Many ingenious machines for registering the entry and departure of employes have been devised, but the most ingenious and efficient is a photographic time-keeper of French invention. By touching a button the operator is instantly photographed on a sensitive film together with the dial of a clock. The face of each employe and the time of his registration thus appear on the strip of sensitive paper and there is no possibility of escaping or tampering with the record. Human character is such a registering machine and infallibly records and indelibly fixes every thought and deed. No one can escape this registration of his life on his own sensitive soul and forever must carry the record with him. "God requireth that which is past."

Martin Luther died at the age of 63, John Calvin at the age of 55, John Knox and Thomas Chalmers when they were 67. Oliver Cromwell lived 59 years, Bonaparte 52.

Lord Curzon, the viceroy of India, stated recently that the loss from the famine to the cultivators of Bombay alone in food crops equalled £15,000,000, while the loss on the cotton crop amounted to £4,000,000.

There is in the Protestant Church says the United Presbyterian the utmost freedom of thought; but freedom of thought does not carry with it freedom of fellowship. When one who is a member of a church which has a written creed finds himself out of harmony with it, there is but one honorable course. To be true to himself and to God, he must withdraw. No man has a right to parade under a banner on which he is not willing to have his name written.

There is in the Doncaster Workhouse an old woman named Bridget Gavin, aged sixty-nine, who has seven sons all serving the Queen. One is in the Militia, and waiting to go out to Africa; another is in the 1st South Staffordshire Regiment, and received medals for the Egyptian campaign; three of the brothers are in the 2nd North Staffords, two being on their way to the front, and two others are already at Sterkstrom with the first Royal Scots.

Mr. J. A. Steuart, the author of "Wine on the Lees," in an interview in the March "Young Man," says one of the things which impressed him when he was making inquiries in connection with the writing of his novel was the enormous power of our big brewers. They frighten any Government. They frighten political parties. The wine and beer and spirit trades put into the national exchequer thirty seven million pounds a year. It is a great cry that if you cut off the liquor trade you do away with a third of the national revenue. But look at the amount paid yearly for the maintenance of the poor, the prevention of crime, and the administration of the criminal law, and remember that three-fourths of that is due directly to drink. . . . There is not a shadow of doubt that for years the liquor trade has been a growing menace which is fast becoming a tyranny. The statesmen of both parties, Mr. Steuart thinks, are to blame for not having contrived any way out of this "national muddle."

The new Principal of Aberdeen University, Dr. Marshall Lang, is a loyal Presbyterian, and is highly esteemed in circles far beyond the bonds of his own church, which, as an eloquent preacher and capable leader, he has served so long and well. That Dr. Lang was quite recently President of the Pan Presbyterian Alliance, is proof of his loyalty to and interest in Presbyterianism beyond as well as in Scotland. Dr. Lang is also decidedly evangelical in his sympathies, and there are, perhaps, few leaders in the Established Church of Scotland who so unhesitatingly command the confidence of those who belong to the United Presbyterian and Free Churches in Scotland. Dr. Lang's translation to the head of the ancient university of the north cannot therefore be other than popular. He is a worthy successor to the late Sir William Geddes. Seven years ago Dr. Lang was Moderator of the General Assembly of his Church, and he is the author of several religious and theological works, including one of the Theological Library Series: "Life—is it Worth Living?"