

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

The Presbyterian Standard, speaking of a clergyman's refusal to marry a couple, one of whom had been "legally but unlawfully" divorced, says: "Legalized adultery has always been a hard thing to rebuke, from the days of John the Baptist until now. But no church or minister of Christ can afford to condone the sin by any shadow of compromise with its abettors."

The Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company of Massachusetts has arranged a more cordial reception for the visit this summer by the parent company from London than has ever been extended to a foreign military organization. The London Company will parade under arms up Bunker Hill, which has not been done by armed British subjects since the Revolution.

China's Imperial Canal is the largest in the world, and greatest in point of traffic. Its length is 2,100 miles, and it connects forty-one cities situated on its banks. It was completed in 1350, after 600 years spent on its construction. Another wonder of the land of the pigtail is the fine suspension bridge in the province of Junnan, which was built in the year 69 A. D., and is still in excellent condition.

According to the Belfast Witness the individual communion cup is being adopted in the English Presbyterian church. Noting that about 1000 congregations of different denominations in the United States have also taken the same step, that paper says: "The wonder is that the thoughtful and orderly Presbyterians of Scotland have so long hesitated to move along the lines of cleanliness and decency in their manner of observance of the Holy Ordinance."

The man who discovered the gorilla, and who was one of the most interesting of travellers and authors, Paul Belloni Du Chaillu, died at St. Petersburg on April 30, after a long and varied career. Mr. Du Chaillu had the good fortune to outlive the doubts which at first surrounded his tales of strange lands and peoples, and to grow surely into the respect and affection of his readers, old and young. His Land of the Midnight Sun and Wild Life Under the Equator (Harper), are among the best works of their class, and with others from the same pen fill an inevitable shelf in all standard libraries. Mr. Du Chaillu was a native of New Orleans of French extraction, and a man of the most fiery and vivacious nature.

The Southwestern Presbyterian, of New Orleans, hails with pleasure any improvement in the observance of the Christian Sabbath, whatever the motive may be. It contributes to elevation of character for an artisan once a week to clean up, dress in good clothing and enjoy the society of his family, even if not a church goer; much more when with them he visits the house of prayer. Our contemporary notes that a great express company has introduced a change which will bring welcome relief to its many employees: "The National Express company has issued a rule which we quote in part as follows:

'We have to request that the practice of requiring our employes to work on Sunday be discontinued at all points.' Specifying a few exceptions in the case of necessary work, it continues: 'The company will not undertake the receiving or delivery of perishable matter on Sunday for markets or any other purpose, except as mentioned. The loss of earnings to the company is not to be considered.' Good! Now, why should not such an example be infectious?

Says the United Presbyterian: "We are intellectually what our literature makes us. We are the product of what we feed on. God has given to every man endowments, but these are to be trained. Under skillful cultivation the desert may become a fruitful field and the wilderness blossom as the rose." How important that our reading should be pure, informing, enlightening and invigorating, the first place being given to the literature, doctrines and teachings of the Book of Books.

According to a recent parliamentary return there are now 415 nuns in Irish workhouses receiving aggregate salaries of £13,504. This is only the thin end of the wedge. In a few years says the Belfast Witness, the number will likely be one thousand, and in a few more the monks will likely be running one department of the workhouse and the nuns the other. We do not say that the work might not be better done—in regard to some of them it could not be much worse. We only note the fact as to the present and suggest the outlook in the future.

At its recent sitting the Synod of Hamilton and London passed the following resolution: "The Synod view with alarm, the great and growing evil of cigarette smoking among the youth of our land. We would warn parents and guardians of the young to guard against this baneful habit. We express our sympathy with the Women's Temperance Union in the great work they are doing. We are pleased that the Dominion parliament has declared in favor of legislation against this evil, and we express the confidence and hope that when the proposed bill is brought before the House it will prove to be just, wise and effective legislation."

The Christian Observer says there is an evident change in public sentiment in the North concerning the former relations of master and servant in the South. Hon. Carroll D. Wright, statistician of the United States Census, in speaking of the present insecurity of labor, recognizes the distinct advantage that the slave formerly enjoyed, in that he was "entitled to food, raiment and shelter during his lifetime," and that "the large majority of the slave-holders were humane." This is more than can be said of some coal miners and their employers. In The Advance, of Chicago, ex President Cleveland is reported as saying that the hope of the negro is in the white man of the South, rather than in the white man of the North; and he endorsed the declaration of Booker T. Washington, that "whatever other sins the South may be called to bear, when it comes to business pure and simple, it is in the South that the negro is given a

man's chance in the commercial world." Such a change of sentiment augurs well for future harmony and concord.

Rev. Chas. Spurgeon, who has been pastor of South St. Baptist Church, Greenwich, for twenty-four years, has found it necessary to resign, and at the leave-taking the church and congregation presented him with two hundred guineas, and a valuable silver table centre piece. In reply to the address Mr. Chas. Spurgeon took occasion to say that he had made it an invariable rule to preach fresh sermons every week. Speaking of Mr. Spurgeon's retirement the Belfast Witness says: "Many who hold the name of Spurgeon in esteem will note, with a somewhat sad interest, the retirement of Pastor Charles Spurgeon, of Greenwich, on account of ill-health."

Some time ago there was an epidemic of small-pox in Boston, into the causes of which an investigation was conducted by three distinguished medical men: Dr. Councilman, Dr. George Burgess McGrath and Dr. Walter Rensen Brinckerhoff—with the co-operation of the Boston Board of Health. The conclusion reached is that small-pox is caused by a micro-organism representative of the lowest form of animal life. This fact serves to show a relation between smallpox and such diseases as malaria, and to distinguish it from many other infectious diseases caused by bacteria.

A board school teacher in England, says the London Daily Mail, wishing to ascertain how many out of his school of 400 boys were smokers, took the trouble to examine their hands. Discarding doubtful cases, over thirty boys, some of very tender years, proved by the discoloration of the fingers to be habitually addicted to the cigarette. All of these thirty boys, with a solitary exception, were worthless as scholars, dull of memory, and practically devoid of anything resembling moral principles. The teacher says: "It is perfectly scandalous that tobacconists are permitted to make sales to very small children as they do, and it is sincerely to be hoped that legal curtailment of the traffic will be effected." How is the anti-cigarette bill getting along in the Dominion parliament?

Speaking of the tremendous influx of immigrants into the United States from Central and Southern Europe, an exchange says: "A wholesome respect for law must be instilled in their minds, and a proper regard for the American Sabbath in contradistinction to the Continental Sabbath to which they have been accustomed. They must be taught to adapt themselves to our institutions, to adjust themselves to their new and strange environments—industrial, civil, social and religious. This process of assimilation is to be effected by education, which takes time, even a generation or two, for its best results." This may well be noted by the people of Canada. We must not only Canadianize but Christianise the foreigners who are coming to settle in our country. Then they will become law-abiding and loyal citizens of the greatest colony of the British empire.