

Dominion Presbyterian

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Says the Canadian Baptist: We have not learned to love Ontario and the East less, but we have learned to love the West more, and we wish that we could influence many of our brethren and sisters of the East to invest their thought, their money, their prayer, themselves in what is calculated to produce a hundred-fold in the life of Western Canada.

The churches of Glasgow are starting a movement to keep certain city church buildings open during week days. "For general resort and retirement from the noise and turbulence of the streets." The public has been appealed to for funds to defray expenses of caretaking, lighting, heating, etc., the buildings to be kept open from nine o'clock in the morning until seven o'clock at night.

Rev. Andrew Murray, well known as an author of devotional books and a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, has retired from his pastorate at Wellington and from the active ministry, owing to advancing age and enfeebled health. Since 1862 he has been a devoted pioneer in founding colleges and other institutions of learning and found time amidst all the undertakings and the duties of the active ministry to write his well-known devotional books and tracts. He founded the Huguenot College and Seminary and Missionary Institute. He was the author of more than forty books that had an enormous circulation, some of them printed in many languages.

The Guild of All Souls, London, is an organization within the Church of England that has for its special function the offering of masses for the repose of the dead. Its report for the past year may serve to show what progress this pious idea is making in the Established Church. The organization has now a membership of 829 clergymen and 4,872 laymen, and this is the close of the thirty-third year of its history. When we consider that the Established Church has over 25,000 clergymen and over 2,000,000 communicants, it is evident that it will take quite a while to convert back to Romanism the great English Church. It is thought that quite a number of the 829 clergymen that belong to this organization are numbered among the "non-active" list, which has 4,000 members.

There are not wanting signs that Alfred Beit's will, with its great gifts for white education, and its unexampled assignment of \$6,000,000 to assist in the construction of roads and telegraphs throughout the colonies, may turn the scale for South Africa as between barbarism and civilization. There can be no question, says Christian Work, that the region has entered a critical period in its history. Signs are not lacking that the tide may flow backward there rather than forward. "Ethiopianism" has aroused the blacks to resist white domination, and over a great part of South Africa they are millions to the white thousands. The grit of Beit may tend to knit together the diverse constituents of the South African communities. The educational institutions which his wealth has found or put upon their feet will help to assimilate the culture of all white South Africans—to melt them into one mold. His gift for inter-colonial means of transportation and communication will raise the hope of the colonists, to whom the work of developing and populating so vast a region, hemmed in on every side by a barbarous race, may often appear utterly vain. It will encourage them to go on, and in the end will give them the means of intercommunication which will render their labours secure. But it seems, was a fitting successor to Cecil Rhodes.

The editor of the California Voice writes thus in regard to the liquor situation in San Francisco. Ponder over its words: "The first Monday morning after the reopening of the saloon in San Francisco (July 9, 1908), there were seventy-four victims before the police courts as against five the previous Monday; seventy-two on Friday as against two on the previous Friday, and the second Monday one hundred and thirteen as against three or four the second Monday before reopening. Never again can a man with ordinary intelligence argue that high license reduces the evils of the drink curse, or that prohibition properly enforced does not prohibit."

According to the recent report of the British consul for New Caledonia, the indigenous Canaques are rapidly becoming an extinct race. Owing to the inroads of disease, more especially the more virulent maladies of phthisis and leprosy, combined with the abuse of alcoholic liquors, the natives are becoming greatly degenerated, and the people do not now number more than 17,000 souls in all. Although the disposal of spirits is forbidden to the natives, they yet obtain enormous quantities by surreptitious methods, and it kills them very quickly. Moreover, the children now born are for the most part very stunted and seldom attain adult age. The consul is of opinion that it will not be many years before the Canaques become totally extinct.

After an extended visit to Scotland, Principal Harper, of Australia, son-in-law of Primate Rainy, ex-Moderator of the United Free Church Assembly, gives the following sombre picture of the religious conditions prevailing north of the Tweed: "In many parts of Scotland the Sunday as God's day has gone. The week-ends spent in the country are demoralizing hosts and guests alike, and making slaves of their domestics. Scotland is, in this way and in other ways, becoming a part of London. The mass of working men are grown careless of the church. The old watchwords of piety and thrift are no longer responded to. Fortitude, too, seems to have disappeared. Sin has ceased to trouble. Comfort and luxury are now the ideals. Many men are losing hold on Christian life."

It seems a pity that the voice of such a teacher as Prof. Adolph Harnack at the Berlin University should be stifled. But is he not getting old, and is he not entitled to rest? Anyway, he has been made a Privy Councillor of the Emperor for Education. This, with the office of Librarian of the Royal Library, will make it impossible for Dr. Harnack to continue occupying his chair at the University. "This ends," says the "British Weekly," "the career of a charming personality at the Berlin University, and thus conclude those three marvellous courses of Church History which ran through three terms. But what will be still more regretted is, we shall never hear the voice again at the University that thrilled hundreds of students at seven o'clock in the morning on such subjects as "What is Christianity?" and the "History of Protestantism in the Nineteenth Century."

The reports of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church show the effects of the recent revival in Wales in a striking manner. The number of new members received into communion is more than double that recorded in the previous year, being 29,820, and brings the total communicant membership up to 189,161, besides 80,000 children in the churches and 4,000 probationers; the adherents altogether number 248,757, or one in every five of the population of Wales. Similar progress is shown in the financial statements. The collections for all purposes during the year amounted to \$1,531,125. The foreign

missions return, in the Khasia and Jaintia Hills, India, 450 churches and preaching stations, and 8,927 communicants, showing an increase of 29 churches and 1,083 communicants; and in Brittany, 5 churches with 331 communicants and 700 hearers.

The four hundredth anniversary of the birth of John Calvin will occur in the year 1909. The event will probably be celebrated in some form in every part of the Christian world, remarks The Central Presbyterian. He has been pronounced by eminent authorities as "the father of civil liberty," "virtually the founder of America," and "the father of the public-school system." He was the distinguished expounder of a great system of theology which bears his name, and is still an eminent authority, freely quoted by the best expositors, in the critical exposition of the Scriptures. In Germany the Reformed Churches are discussing how they shall most appropriately commemorate the event of his birth. Some favor the erection of a great monument, while others favor the accumulation of a large endowment fund, to be used in the support and extension of the Reformed faith. Let the commemoration in some way advance the cause of the world's spiritual emancipation to which the great genius of Calvin was devoted.

The abandonment of Mormonism by Mr. W. M. Wolfe, one of the leaders has caused a stir in Mormon circles. The secession is especially significant because Mr. Wolfe has been Professor of Theology in Brigham Young College, an institution of the church at Logan, Utah. He has renounced his belief in the Mormon faith, refused to pay tithes, and severed his connection with the College. According to an interview, his change of faith was due to a trip to Mexico which satisfied him, he said, that the Mormon Church had reinstated polygamous marriages. He found many young women, who had recently entered into the plural marriage relations with leading elders of the Mormon Church. Professor Wolfe is quoted as saying: "The Mormon settlements in Mexico are closely in touch with those of Arizona, and in each case polygamy is practised as freely today as it ever has been." It is time for district attorneys and marshals to get their law books down, blow off the dust and begin work. And we have no doubt, remarks the Maritime Baptist, the officials would find something to do in the Mormon settlement in Alberta if they were so disposed.

We learn from an announcement in "The Christian World" (London), that Rev. Charles M. Sheldon, who wrote the now almost forgotten "In His Steps," has been a vegetarian since his visit to England. The healthiness of a Scotch vegetarian family with whom he stayed in Dundee converted him to a fleshless diet. Six years ago he tried the experiment of going a full year without any breakfast. He drank two coffee cups of hot water, and on the strength of that bill of fare did a healthy man's regular forenoon's work. At the time he preached or lectured, on an average, once a day for six months and did not miss a single engagement or have a headache or a pain. On this the N. Y. Christian Work comments: "Meat, however Mr. Sheldon and others may do without it, is absolutely necessary to those performing physical work, and especially so to athletes. Indeed, in many schools of both sexes vegetarians would not be admitted in ball play, basket-ball, tennis or golf, simply because they could not do their work on potatoes, beets, beans, celery, carrots, parsnips, tomatoes, oyster plant, lettuce, artichokes and spinach. Here endeth the lesson."