

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS

## Note and Comment.

London is the birthplace of the Young Men's Christian Association, and although it celebrated some eight years ago its semi-centennial it has not become languid.

Rev. Dr. Gillespie, the new Moderator of the Church of Scotland, is to be presented with a national testimonial on his attainment of the highest post in the Church.

There are some 2,000 ministers, probationers, and missionaries in the Church of Scotland. Of these thirty-six have celebrated their jubilees. During the last year thirty-five died.

India's Christian population has increased about 28 per cent. in the last ten years. The exact number of Christians of all denominations in British India, including Burma, is given as 2,930,000.

It is said that Dr. Lorenz, whose surgery without the knife and charming personality have delighted the American people for three months, owes the tremendous physical strength on which he depends for his bloodless operations, to working on a farm when he was a boy.

The early missionaries to Madagascar were told that they might as well try to convert cattle as to make Christians of the natives. But in one of the most cruel persecutions ever known those that became Christians proved to be among the bravest of martyrs.

A service in commemoration of the 1300th anniversary of the death of St. Mungo was held in Glasgow Cathedral on Sunday, and was attended by the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors. A service was also held in St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Cathedral, where Archbishop Maguire preached.

At the end of 1901 the number of sailing vessels flying the British flag was 7227; of steamers there were 8147. Leaving sailing vessels out of account, it is estimated by various well-informed officials of shipowners' societies that out of these 8147 steamers about 6947 were tramps, and only 1200 were liners.

Near Quebec a railroad bridge across the St. Lawrence River is being constructed with the longest single span of any bridge yet in existence. It is of the cantilever construction, and the length of the great channel span over the river will be 1,800 feet, more by 200 feet than the span of the Brooklyn suspension bridge, and by 100 feet the chief span of the celebrated Forth bridge in Scotland. The towers will rise 360 feet above the high-tide level of the river. Two railroad tracks and two electric railway-tracks besides roads for wagons, will be included on the bridge.

Rev. F. B. Meyer has returned from his visit to Jamaica full of vigour. Since his return he has already held a week's mission in Manchester, and is about to conduct conventions at various large towns in Lancashire and Yorkshire. Subsequently, at the invi-

tation of Count Bernstorff, Mr. Meyer proceeds to Germany for Conferences on the Higher Life. He resumes his regular ministry at Christ Church in April.

The extraordinary increase in the size of the congregation at the City Temple on Thursday morning is the subject of not a little private conversation and newspaper comment. The "Daily News" says that during the weeks which have elapsed since the death of Dr. Parker the Thursday service has proved to be "something of a phenomenon," and adds that Mr. Campbell "has for the time being at any rate, doubled the usual congregation that listened to Dr. Parker at mid day."

Rev. Dr. Meharry, of Crouch Hill, interviewed for "The Free Church Chronicle," said the longer he lived the more he was convinced of the need of house-to-house visitation. "It is, in my judgment," he added, "impossible to make full proof of one's ministry in the pulpit only. The way to the heart of the people lies open through the home, and I lament the decay, from any cause, of pastoral visitation."

In Ireland, as in Canada, the struggle for Sabbath observance goes on. The Belfast Witness says: Londonderry is making protest by a monster petition to the Postmaster General on the question of Sabbath work for postmen. Lately a Sabbath morning delivery has been granted, but a very large section of the citizens are determined not to have this extra duty put on the letter-carriers, and are making a house-to-house canvass in order to convince the authorities that the delivery is not wanted,

Edinburgh Presbytery has adopted an overture to the General Assembly in regard to an institution for training lay workers. Dr. Drummond mentioned that there were 266 lay workers, men and women, for whose training the Church made no provision, and said that the late Dr. Duff long ago cherished the idea of attaching the Professorship of Evangelical Theology to an institution such as was proposed.

A correspondent of the Belfast Witness says: There is no end to Anglican eccentricity. Some time ago a Church parson awakened criticism and laughter by his "service for people in evening dress." but the vicar of Clerkenwell surely out distances all competitors by a "service in the dark." "The church will be absolutely unlighted from the time the congregation assembles to its departure. As prayer-books would be useless under the circumstances, the lessons for the day, the Psalms, hymns, and prayers will be thrown on a large screen by a magic-lantern." And, does anyone ask, "Why in the dark?" One trembles to give the vicar's reason, since it may be considered a slander on the fair sex, but 'tis even thus—"That the minds of female worshippers are apt to deviate from serious thoughts to the inspection of the hats and gowns worn by other lady members of the congregation."

At a meeting of the Council of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption, held in London the other day,

under the presidency of Sir William Broadbent, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That spitting on the floors of public buildings, on platforms, corridors, staircases, and in public carriages or passenger boats, or in any covered place of public resort, should be forbidden by law."

Lord Cromer's recent speech at Khartoum presents a very rosy picture of the Soudan, which evidently stands on the threshold of a new era. On Lord Cromer's first visit to the Soudan five years ago scarcely a germ of civilization could be said to exist in the country, while to day Khartoum is a flourishing town, and Lord Cromer now forses the land covered with a network of railways, and transformed into a centre of agricultural and commercial prosperity.

Only one woman has taken an active part in the Durbar at Delhi—if we set aside the mother of the infant ruler of Bharatpur, who brought the prince in her arms to take his part in the proceedings. Throughout all India there is only one reigning princess, the Begum of Bhopal, who laid a gold casket at the Viceroy's feet, and talked freely with Lady Curzon and the Duchess of Connaught when she came before the people to pay homage to the Emperor.

Prof Cody, a few days ago speaking in Toronto on his recent trip to the West, said that he welcomed the "American invasion" of the North West, which would give Canada good and thrifty citizens. The Galician, though unclean, had possibilities; for the Doukhobors, in spite of recent observations, he had a high regard, and believed that ultimately they would be absorbed in the body politic. If he were the Government, however, he would not give assistance toward bringing such immigrants here.

The announcement that the Moderator of the Church of Scotland and the Rev. Dr. Blair will speak at a meeting of one of the Edinburgh Free Church congregations has given rise to some conjecture and some criticism. But Dr. Russell and Dr. Blair are so identified with Highland life that their presence in an assemblage of Highlanders must not be taken to mean too much. But even if it is a move to conciliate and win over the remnant to the Church of Scotland, why should the United Free Church complain? From every point of view such a result is in the highest degree desirable. But it is to be feared that it is not yet as near as could be wished.

Says the Scottish American Journal: The advance sheets of the official Catholic directory for 1903 show the total Catholic population of the United States to be 11,289,710, about 2,500,000 below the popular estimate. New York is the largest diocese, with an estimated Catholic population of 1,200,000. Chicago comes next with a round million, but has the largest number of churches, 301. Taking into consideration the newly-acquired possessions of this country the Catholic population under the flag is estimated at 18,850,000. In this country there are 100 prelates, 1 Cardinal, 13 Archbishops and 86 Bishops.