

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 per Annum.

BELLEVILLE, MONTREAL, TORONTO.

Single Copies. 5 Cents

Note and Comment

The total number of people on relief works in India now exceeds half a million.

Like many other famous men of action, Sir Redvers Buller is a man of few words, and not given to explanations.

In a single week recently Miss Helen Gould received 600 begging letters, in which the total amount asked for was £203,001.

Last year 25,000 persons were killed by wild animals in India. Tigers were responsible for about 1,000 deaths, and many were devoured by man-eating wolves.

Mr. J. M. Barrie has completed the sequel to his "Sentimental Tommy." It is to be called "Tommy and Grizel," and its opening chapters will appear in the January Scribner.

The *modus vivendi* established with France expires in January, and a member of the Newfoundland Government is quoted as saying it will not be renewed, adding that definite Imperial action must be taken in the near future.

At no previous time when Great Britain was involved in war was there such hearty, benevolent and patriotic action displayed for the care of soldiers' families and the comfort of the men in the field by both Government and people as at present.

Excluding the two capitals, there is not a single city in the whole of Russia, properly so called, which would be deemed a large town in Britain. Only twenty have a population exceeding 50,000, and only 150 count more than 10,000 inhabitants.

Princess Beatrice, says "Cassell's Journal," is the greatest photograph collector in England. She has 300 photographs placed about her various rooms, while she has thousands stored away. She has been an assiduous collector of them since she was a child.

Recent fogs in London, though dense, have not been of the proverbial pea soup hue. The *Lancet* thinks that this may be the result of "the strong measures taken during the year to abate the smoking nuisance," which have made the air of London cleaner.

One of the special correspondents of the *London Mail* in South Africa is a woman—Lady Sarah Wilson, aunt of the Duke of Marlborough. Recent despatches from Cape Town tell of a journey of 200 miles from Mafeking, made by her on horseback in an attempt to get news for her journal.

The German navy is to be doubled in the next seventeen years, according to a scheme just published by the German Emperor. The cost will be from three to four million sterling per annum. The reason is stated to be German dread of the Anglo-American alliance.

The Queen, when visiting Bristol this month, will be accompanied by the Duke of Connaught, Princess Christian and Princess Beatrice. Her Majesty sent £100 to the father of the young Frenchman who was accidentally shot dead by a British gunboat.

It will be of interest to Canadians to know that President Kruger's private medical adviser is a Canadian, Paul Gillespie, who practiced in Streetsville for a few months about 8 years ago, going from there to Pen-tanguishene and later to the Transvaal. Dr. Gillespie is also a Presbyterian.

The Michigan Presbyterian notices that in the city churches the very cream of the membership has been trained in country or village churches. Therefore, both from gratitude and self-interest, city churches should help support country churches. On the same principle rich suburban churches should help the depleted down-town churches.

During the war special prayers are offered up in the Queen's household for the preservation of the British army, and though her Majesty does not join in the public prayers in ordinary circumstances, she is always present for those which are said during troublous times. It is Princess Beatrice who has read the prayers in the Queen's palaces for years.

The Independent comments on the respective attitudes of two prominent Presbyterian churches in New York. They are both seeking new pastors, but "The Fifth Avenue Church has given, apparently, scarcely a thought to an American. Its committee have canvassed Great Britain and Ireland." On the other hand, it is said, that the Brick Church congregation will look for an American.

In certain parts of Sweden, where the most absolute confidence is reposed in the honesty of the people, a very informal postal system is in vogue. As the mail steamer reaches a landing place a man goes ashore with the letters, which he places in an unlocked box on the pier. Then, when a person expects a letter he opens the box, turns over the letters and selects his own, unquestioned by anyone.

In the *African Review* the story is told of a little girl and some Boers. One or two of the Boers were walking up and down the corridor of a railway carriage singing some doggerel about the prowess of the Boers and the ease with which they had thrashed the Englishmen. It was distinctly provocative—intended to be. "Mother," said one of my little girls, springing to her feet—"mother, do let us sing 'God Save the Queen!'"

The *London Lancet* gives an account of an instrument called the *neutone* for applying a gentle electric current to the skin. The apparatus is contained on a base plate, at the bottom of which are mounted the two electrodes which are applied to the skin. They consist of polished metal plates $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches long by 1 inch wide with a suitable gap between. The batteries are connected to the apparatus with a flexible cord. It is held in the hand and moved over the affected places about the same way a flat iron is used in ironing clothes. The current can be varied to suit the different requirements of the patients by a regulator on the base.

A two days' conference, arranged by the Church of Scotland, has been held in Inverness. It was the outcome of a proposal made by the Home Mission, Christian Life and Work, and Highland Committees, and cordially approved by the General Assembly. At the opening service, which was largely attended, Rev. Dr. Pagan preached from "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord," and gave an instructive address.

Principal Hutton, in opening the session of the U. P. Theological Hall, Edinburgh, pointed out that ecclesiastical union was useless without a deeper and inward unity of the Christian spirit, and declares that the leading barriers to co-operative, and still more to incorporate Christian unity, were those erected by priesthood and sacerdotal claims and practice, of which Romanism was the chief source and example, followed by an imitative Anglicanism.

In France it is common for the children to have a bank account. In the common schools the pupils deposit with their teachers from one sou upward and a representative of the savings bank comes around once a month to collect these little hoards. Nearly every parent endeavors to make provision for starting his children in the world—a marriage portion for the girls and an education for the boys by which they can earn a livelihood.

There are many antiquities now on view at Ephesus, having been unearthed by the excavation of the Austrians. A great theatre has been dug out, the whole of the columns of the proscenium and the passage and anteroom, with mosaic pavements, have been opened up and work is going on still in the upper portions of the theatre. In the street in front are the marks of chariot wheels along the pavement. There are also the whole series of buildings behind and underneath the gymnasium, including marble water troughs, sculptured with oak and oak wreaths and fine marble doorways in situ. A semi-circular marble portico with its steps, which occupy the whole east side of the harbor is now being excavated. It is believed St Paul landed at these steps.

It is difficult to listen with patience to the arguments of Ritualists, says Prof. Goldwin Smith, who contend that Transubstantiation, the Mass, and the Confessional have as historical and legal standing in the English Church. What drove Newman and the other leaders of the Tractarian movement out of the Church of England into the Church of Rome but the conviction, at which they most reluctantly arrived, that in the Church of England there was no standing ground for their system? After the series of religious revolutions and counter-revolutions which filled the years between the Secession of Henry VIII. from the Papacy and the settlement of Elizabeth, some relics of the old phraseology and the old ceremonial were pretty sure to be left and to afford openings for ingenious interpretation. But is the character of a spiritual body to be determined by ingenious interpretations? That the Church of England was Protestant down to the time that the Tractarian movement commenced can be disputed by no decently informed and honest man. The people of England, unless they have undergone a miraculous change, will resist the conversion of a public establishment into an engine for restoring medieval superstitions and the priestly domination of the dark ages. Kensit would have been powerless if he had not had a strong body of opinion behind him.