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C. Blackett Robinson, Editor.

OTAWA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1905.

No fewer than 1,086,670 Bibles are recorded as being circulated in China last year. "The seed is the Word." Nothing could give greater promise that the future holds a great harvest for the Kingdom.

It is curious to note how all the governments, including the United States,—all except the British government, stand up for the "open door" for trade, and at the same time close their own doors by high protectionist tariffs. This is what they all ask in China, and now in Morocco. Great Britain alone has the moral right to make the demand; for she opens her doors freely to all. Even Canada who has put up fences against outside products urges "the open door" in Great Britain for her cattle.

Practical divorce legislation has been enacted by the Illinois Legislature. The new Illinois law prohibits a divorced person from marrying again for one year, and when infidelity is involved, the guilty party is prohibited for two years, while the penalty for violating the law is from one to three years in the penitentiary and the annulment of the marriage. In urging this measure it was stated that last year there were 6,000 divorce cases in the state, outside of Chicago, and that 2,200 divorces were granted.

In the Swedish army 500 men were recently tested in rifle marksmanship without alcoholic drink immediately before and considerably before rifle practice—the results in all cases proving in favor of entire abstinence from intoxicants. And the Swedish Parliament has voted to exclude beer from the army stations—spirits being previously interdicted. It has also forbidden the transmission of intoxicating liquor by parcels post. The Herald and Presbyterian says: "All of this justifies the position of our own Government in abolishing the sale of liquor in our army cantons, and argues against the restoration of it. We have a right to be served by sober men in our army as certainly as a railroad has a right to demand sobriety of its employees."

THE MISUSE OF WEALTH.

Cleveland Moffett is publishing a series of articles on "the misuse of wealth" in the Success Magazine, in which he notes some very startling facts. He says that there are 6,000 women in New York, wives and daughters of millionaires, who spend every year an aggregate of \$43,000,000 in dresses. This is an average of over \$7,000 apiece. Yes, \$7,000 in gowns, hats, fans, gloves, furs, etc. Some robes of Siberian sable cost from \$6,000 to \$30,000. Some women must have an entirely new outfit for every social function that they attend, just to show that they can afford it. And these social functions are often most absurdly expensive. It was generally understood, at the time, that the Bradley-Martin ball given at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, a few years ago, cost \$100,000—yes, money enough to pay the necessary expenses of over a hundred families for a year squandered in a single evening. And while these few rich people in New York were thus worse than wasting their millions, there are a million people in that city who are living on the borders of starvation. Is not this the case in a lesser degree, of course, wherever fashion and costly functions prevail? Even in Ottawa thousands of dollars are criminally wasted in connection with such functions, while hundreds of people are in actual want, while churches and charitable organizations find difficulty in "making ends meet" and vast mission fields crying for the Gospel are left untouched by the Heralds of the Cross because Christian churches cannot get money enough to send out missionaries to touch and save men for whom Jesus died. As a writer in the Herald and Presbyterian says, in referring to the plea that rich men have a right to do as they please with their own, "This is sheer atheism. It is God who giveth power to get wealth (see Deut. viii. 17); and he to whom God gives that power is his steward, his trustee, and each will have to give an account to him of his stewardship." Some day there will be an awful reckoning for those who waste God-given wealth.

The Presbyterian Witness has some interesting historic notes of the first meeting of the Presbyterian General Assembly in Kingston in 1881. Of the maritime men who attended that assembly ten have entered upon their rest; twenty-three are still with us mostly in active service. Dr. Burns, Dr. McGregor, Dr. Waters, Samuel Houston, Murdoch Stewart and John McKinnon are most notable of these who have gone. Among the other notable men who were there and whose day of toil is over we note Dr. Cook of Quebec, a genius as well as a theologian; Dr. Jenkins, a remarkably pleasing and attractive preacher and a model pastor; Principal McVicar, a sturdy warm-hearted Highlander, orthodox and progressive; Dr. A. B. Mackay, a strong evangelist as well as pastor, never thoroughly Canadianized. Of Toronto men we miss Caven and Reid, MacDonnell and King, Dr. Fraser, the venerable Clerk, we used to bracket with Dr. Reid. They were a noble pair of brothers." Hamilton sent Dr. John Laing; Paris Presbytery sent Dr. Cochran, one of the most indefatigable workers of the time, greatly engrossed in Home Missions. John Black of Kilkonan and James Robertson were present; Black for the first and only time.

The Religious Tract Society, London, publishes and circulates works in 275 different languages. At its recent annual meeting the Rt. Hon. James Bryce presided and made a fine address. Two bishops were there and spoke of the importance of the services rendered by the society to the cause of religion. Many years ago an Englishman made a gift of twenty thousand pounds to the Society to enable it to publish books dealing with errors of Ritualism. Many useful works have been published in defence of the reformed church.

DR. ARMSTRONG APPRECIATED.

As a recognition of the honor which Dr. Armstrong has brought to St. Paul's congregation and incidentally to all the Presbyterian churches of the city, in being unanimously elected moderator of the Presbyterian church in Canada, the members of the congregation on Monday evening assembled and presented their pastor with an address. Mrs. Armstrong was also made the recipient of an exquisite bouquet of white roses.

The platform on which were Dr. Thorburn, chairman, and Rev. Dr. Moore, Rev. Dr. Wardrope, and Mr. George Hay, was a mass of beautiful cut flowers. The evening opened with the singing of the doxology, and a short prayer by Rev. Dr. Moore, after which Dr. J. Thorburn, on behalf of the congregation, read the following address:

"To Rev. Dr. W. D. Armstrong, Ph. D., D.D.

"Dear Sir: It has been our happy privilege on several occasions to present to you the congratulations of this congregation, both in appreciation of your long, faithful and efficient services among us as our pastor, and for the honors received from your alma mater. It affords us renewed pleasure on the present occasion to convey to you our hearty congratulations for the fresh honor conferred on you at the recent meeting of the general assembly, in your election to the highest office in the church, namely, that of moderator, of the Presbyterian church in Canada.

"Since you came to us thirty-one years ago you have not confined yourself in your ministrations merely to the limits of your own congregation and city, but have closely identified yourself with the various schemes of the church at large. You have labored assiduously in connection with home missions, Sabbath observance, lumbmen's missions and French evangelization, and for some years have been managing director of the Ladies' Presbyterian college of Ottawa. You have also been long actively engaged in furthering the interest of the British and Foreign Bible society and other kindred agencies. It is therefore a source of great pleasure and satisfaction to us, the members of St. Paul's congregation that the church in its highest representative court has recognized your public services by entrusting to you the high and responsible office of its moderatorship.

"Canada in recent years has been making rapid progress in the development of her various material resources. Vast and increasing streams of population are flowing into our great northwest, and the future welfare of our country depends largely upon how the church meets her increasing responsibility by providing for the spiritual welfare of the people. The Presbyterian church has, we are pleased to know, not been altogether unmindful of her God-given mission in this respect. It is no slight honor, therefore, at this critical period of our history, that you have been placed as the overseer of our church.

"Our earnest prayer is that during your term of office you may be so guided and strengthened by the Great Head of the church as to be enabled to perform the important duties entrusted to you, with a large measure of success.

"We extend to Mrs. Armstrong our cordial and best wishes, and we trust that she and you may long be spared to each other and in passing years continue to enjoy the affectionate regard of your family.

"On behalf of the congregation—JOHN THORBURN."

Mrs. Armstrong was then presented with the bouquet by Miss Jean Irvine. Both recipients made suitable replies, thanking the donors for their evidences of friendly feeling and hearty co-operation.

Rev. Dr. Wardrope, formerly pastor of St. Paul's, Rev. Dr. Herridge, Mr. George