

# Dominion Presbyterian

1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

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## Note and Comment.

The late Dr. Samuel Smiles, LL. D., Kensington, London, (a native of Haddington, Scotland,) left £79,964 of personal estate.

Mrs. D. O. Hill, sister of the late Sir Noel Paton, R.S.A., and herself a sculptor of some repute, died in Edinburgh on the 5th inst.

Lord Strathcona has purchased Debben Hall, Essex. The hall belonged to Ralph Peverell during the reign of William the Norman.

The *African Review* says: "In the Transvaal and the Orange River colony, if the present rate of intermarriage between Briton and Boer is kept up, within twenty years the two races will be so welded together as to be indistinguishable.

The Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman, the evangelist, announces that he will accompany a party of Presbyterians and their friends to the Holy Land next season to visit Jerusalem, Galilee, Damascus, etc.

In France the bill for the suppression of teaching by the Romish religious orders has become a law, but ten years is allowed for putting the new educational system of State schools in full working order.

Lord Strathcona has been installed Chancellor of Aberdeen University, the first time such an event has happened there in forty years. The four hundredth anniversary of the university will be celebrated in September, 1905, when representatives are invited from institutions of learning throughout Greater Britain.

The recent discovery by Mr. Allen, a Dublin veterinary surgeon, that ordinary turpentine is an antidote to carbolic acid has aroused great interest. A well-known chemical expert in Dublin tested the efficacy of the antidote on a dog. A dose of carbolic acid was first administered, and when the ordinary symptoms of carbolic poisoning had been developed oil of turpentine was applied, and the dog recovered with a short time.

Another religion has cropped out—Soulism—an offshoot of Spiritualism. The head of this ism, "Rev." Nora Davis, is now telling her followers of a trip which her soul took to the planet Neptune. According to newspaper accounts of her, she is not sufficiently rested yet to give any very connected account of her hurried soul trip, except to say that the inhabitants of that planet are three times the size of the earth's inhabitants. After her imagination has had a chance to work, however, a detailed account of her trip will probably be forthcoming for the edification of her fellow Soulists.

At a "mission" or evangelistic service held in St. Mary's Cathedral (Roman Catholic), Halifax, the preacher, Rev. Father Conolly,

speaking on "Mortal Sin," drew a vivid picture of the two "paths"—one which led to everlasting joy, and the other to eternal death. He referred forcibly to the Sunday drinker, and to the curse of excluding Christ from the Sabbath day and devoting it to that pleasure which was termed innocent, but which often led to grievous mortal sin. It is plain speaking of this kind which tells upon and educates public opinion. Whatever differences of opinion they may have on some theological questions, ministers of the gospel of all denominations can make no mistake in speaking plainly against the curse of drunkenness and desecration of the Lord's Day.

An Englishman, who has visited England after 25 years of farm-life in New Zealand, considers that the pasture land of Great Britain could be made to produce profitably quite one-half of the dairy products required for home use. But, he says, the wrong man is the farmer; he never does any work with his own hands, mostly his wife and children play day by day. They are not farmers, they ought to be country gentlemen in receipt of an income of £10,000 per annum. It is all bunkum to expect to profitably farm land if you do not know how it should be done, and the only way to know is to do it yourself, or, at any rate, take a hand in it.

England's great military hero has been widely quoted recently by those interested as favorable to the cigarette. Some good ladies of the W.C.T. U. in Montreal thought to find out the truth of the matter, and so wrote to Lord Roberts himself. Recently a very courteous reply came, in which the following sentence occurs: "My opinion is that every one would be better without smoking, and that, so far as boys are concerned, it is a pernicious and injurious habit." The ladies now intend printing this statement of conviction upon a card with Lord Roberts' portrait, and circulating it broadcast throughout the country. The *Christian Guardian* is correct when it says: "The intelligent and public-spirited people who consider that the cigarette is anything else but a public menace and nuisance are few indeed."

In connection with mission work among colored people in the Southern States, a writer in the *Christian Observer*, gives the following illustration of the astounding ignorance displayed in some mission schools: "Many of those who came to us at first shocked the teachers by their dense ignorance of all things pertaining to the Bible and the nature and works of God. The name of God was only known to them when used in cath. Many of the children did not know of Jesus. When we undertook to teach them of his office as a shepherd caring for his flock, they did not know what a sheep was. It was very difficult for those who were raised in Christian homes, and familiar with all the beauties of the Bible truths from their early youth, to make these lessons clear to those who were so ignorant, but by patient and careful study of the methods of teaching, and by careful instruction to those children, we have been delighted with the results."

Paris is much excited just now over the publication at Brussels of the letters exchanged by George Sand and Alfred de Musset. At the time when the two lovers definitely separated, Alfred de Musset asked that his letters might be returned to him, but George Sand did not ask for hers. Finally, at their last interview, they placed the two sets of letters in two sealed packets, which were deposited in the hands of a mutual friend, M. Gustave Papet. After de Musset's death, in 1848, George Sand said that so far as she was concerned, the correspondence might be published; but de Musset had not wished that this should be done, and the publication was consequently postponed in conformity with his wishes and those of his surviving relatives. At last they have appeared in anticipation of the Sand centenary, but not without eliciting an indignant protest from Madame Lardin de Musset, the poet's only surviving sister.

"Dr. Jules Rehn, of Paris, has been carrying out several experiments to ascertain the precise effects of radium burning upon the skin," says *The Scientific American*. "If the rays of one-sixteenth-hundredth part of an ounce of radium bromide are applied, no pain is experienced nor is there any mark left at the time of application; but twenty-four hours later a red mark appears, remains for a fortnight, fades, and leaves behind a scar similar to that of a burn. If the application be continued for ten minutes instead of five, the mark becomes visible in eighteen hours. Ulceration does not occur unless the radium has been applied for at least an hour. If the spot thus caused is treated medically, suppuration may be prevented and the wound cured in six weeks or two months. But if it is not attended to, it gathers, becomes painful, and lasts an indefinite period. Some of these wounds or burns, caused three months ago by one hour's application of radium, still show no signs of healing. Moles can be destroyed by applying the radium for ten minutes."

The imposing marble monument of Goethe, presented some time ago by the Kaiser to the city of Rome, where the great poet passed one of the most memorable years of his earlier life, was formally unveiled the other evening in the presence of the King of Italy, the German Ambassador, and many other notable people. The monument is a superb specimen of modern art, standing 27 feet high in altitude. It is surmounted by a full-size figure of Goethe, 10 feet high, erected upon a massive Corinthian capital, on either side of which are placed exquisite classic groups symbolizing Goethe's masterpieces. The Kaiser's gift, which cost \$100,000, stands in the ancient Villa Borghese, now a free national park, under whose stately trees Goethe wrote "Iphigenia." This statue was made the subject of diplomatic communication at the time of President Loubet's visit to Rome a few months ago, as it had not then been erected, while one in honour of Victor Hugo was ready to be unveiled. Because of the protest the French President was only able to make an informal inspection of the work.