

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS.

Note and Comment.

During the siege of Peking, the beleaguered occupants of the British legation ate 80 mules. No wonder they came out alive and kicking.

Ex-Provost Moncur, of Dundee, Scotland, has generously increased his gift towards a sanitarium for consumptives from £10,000 to £15,000.

In order to promote the cause of good roads cyclists in New Zealand are advocating the imposition of taxes upon themselves and their machines.

The inland revenue returns for the port of Ottawa for November amounted this year to \$29,678, an increase of \$7,460 over the same month last year.

Lord William George Armstrong, inventor of the Armstrong gun and a writer upon electrical and scientific topics, died a few days ago at his home at Craigside.

Accounts for the Province of Ontario, made up the eleven months ending November 30, show that the receipts were \$3,700,000, and the expenditures \$3,600,000.

A Brisbane, Australia, despatch says the wheat crop of the Darling Downs district is expected to beat all records. In some instances it will yield 52 bushels to the acre.

Mr. Bastedo, the fishery commissioner for Ontario, has a scheme for placing next year a number of land-locked salmon from Quebec and black bass in the Muskoka lakes.

Says the Vancouver World: Vancouver cannot "hello Victoria" just yet but the new century will not be far advanced before the citizens of the two towns may talk over the wires.

A West Point cadet has died of a hazing, in which tobacco sauce and red pepper were administered internally. The ingenious Mikado who favored belling oil and melted lead would have been a hale fellow with these hazers.

An institution was opened in Belgium for the alleged cure of tuberculosis by the exclusive raw meat diet. After a trial of a few months, the experiment was abandoned, as it was found that there was no efficacy in the Richet cure.

There is, apparently, some improvements in the China situation. The Powers seem to be nearer an agreement as to the demands that should be made on China. But it is unsafe to say that may be reported as done or to be done to-morrow.

Says the Christian Intelligencer: The young Canadian soldier, Mulloy, who lost his sight while serving in South Africa, will study for the ministry in the Baptist Church. He left College to enlist, and though seriously handicapped by the loss of sight, he is taking up his work cheerfully and with determination. He will, doubtless, succeed.

Rev. Dr. Parker has closed his week's editorial labors with a severe pessimistic spasm; and seems to be surprised that the world has not improved under his week of editorship. "The letters I received," said he to his congregation on Christmas, "from nominal Christians during my editorship disgusted me. Christians are becoming invalids, and the Church is a hospital. Nurses are wanted. Manliness is dead." Dr. Parker has discovered, like many another, that a good way to get a knowledge of human nature and to see life without its veneer is to become an editor.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh has accepted the Chancellorship of St. Andrew's University.

Word has been received in the city that Wilfrid Dougall, nephew of John Dougall, of the Witness, has been seriously wounded in South Africa, having had his eyesight destroyed and his nose injured. Dougall went to Africa with the second contingent.

Lord Strathcona has, it is reported on reliable authority, completed the purchase since his return to England of another mansion. It is situated in Grosvenor Square, London. This will make the seventh mansion of which the High Commissioner of Canada in London is the possessor.

A large Catholic Congress was held some weeks ago at Reims, France. Subjects of living interest were discussed. Sabbath rest, improved clerical education especially in science, greater attention to sociological questions, abstinence from strong drink, and other subjects were under favorable consideration.

Dr. Jno. G. Paton handed over to the missionary society the \$70,000 of profits on his biography. Doubtless it is the spirit underlying this act which has been one of the secrets of the great blessing upon his work in the New Hebrides. The last year 1,102 islanders have been won from cannibalism to Christianity.

A portion of the fruit exhibit of Ontario at the Pan-American exposition has been sent to Buffalo to be placed in cold storage. On its arrival there duty was collected on it, contrary to the department's expectation. It is thought, however, that the Pan-American officials will be able to secure a rebate of the duty collected.

A Russian medical man has decided that the electric light is less injurious to the eyes. He says that the oftener the lids are closed the greater the fatigue, and consequent injury. By experiments he finds that the lids would close with different illuminations per minute: Candle light, 6-8; gas, sun, 2-2; electric light, 1-8.

Tuberculosis has been placed among the diseases which are subject to quarantine. The United States commissioner of immigration has so decided in the case of a Japanese who arrived at San Francisco from Japan ill with this lung trouble. It was decided that the patient could not land, but must return to the port from which he sailed.

The amnesty bill, designed to cover cases arising out of the Dreyfus affair, has been the subject of debate in the French Chamber of Deputies, and an effort was made to amend the bill by excluding forgers and false witnesses from benefiting by it; but this was defeated in response to an appeal from the prime minister, and the bill was adopted.

Sir George Newnes, who financed Mr. Borghrevink's recent expedition to the Antarctic zone, has placed the whole of the scientific spoils collected by the late Nikolai Hansen, the scientist in the expedition, at the disposal of the Natural History Museum at South Kensington. The collection comprises birds, beasts, fishes and an assortment of other innumerable curiosities. The authorities at the museum will select all that they require, and transfer them to the experts in the respective departments to be duly examined and annotated.

Dr. Cuyler remarks that our finest hymns were not composed by our greatest poets; that a perfect hymn need not be artistically a perfect poem, but that it must point upward, must be prayer or praise, or both combined. The greatest hymn, he says, is Toplady's 'Rock of Ages,' the second is Charles Wesley's 'Jesus, Lover of My Soul.' Dr. Cuyler asks if there is any American hymn

that can be named after these crown jewels of British hymnology. He thinks Ray Palmer's 'My Faith Looks up to Thee' may be 'The author wrote at the age of twenty-two, and said that the words were 'born out of his own soul.' The fourth great hymn, according to Dr. Cuyler, is Charlotte Elliott's 'Just as I Am.'

Sweden has done a great deal towards the cause of education, and the city of Stockholm now claims to be the possessor of the most palatial elementary national school in existence.

The bishops of the Catholic church all over the United States now pledge the girls and boys at confirmation to abstain from intoxicating liquors until they are twenty-one years old. When the bishop leaves his parish after confirmation, the responsibility rests with the parish to see that these boys and girls are organized into total abstinence societies.

Chicago will be the first city on this continent to have regular passenger transport by automobiles in opposition to the street railway cars. The Hub Motor Transit Company is prepared to provide the new conveyances. It has fifty omnibuses now in course of construction for use in Chicago, each of which is built to accommodate forty passengers at five cents each.

Dawson news under date Dec. 10th says that an epidemic of typhoid and pneumonia is prevalent at Dawson. Both St. Mary's and the Good Samaritan hospitals are filled with patients. Major Z. C. Wood, commanding the Northwest Mounted Police, and Capt. Scarth are both afflicted with typhoid pneumonia, and are confined to their beds. Their cases are not dangerous.

"College professors," said President Jones, of Hobart College, in a recent address, "are miserably paid. The full professor in a New York State college gets an average salary equal to that of a railroad engineer, an assistant professor the same as a fireman, while an instructor is equally rewarded with a brakeman." It is probable that an examination of salaries paid Canadian professors would reveal a similar state of affairs in this country.

If Sir Wilfrid Laurier represents Canada at the inauguration of common-wealth of Australia he will have seen the birth of two new nations. Word comes from Sydney that there is in New South Wales and Victoria, especially the former, a dearth of candidates for the Federal Senate. Prominent Roman Catholics, who are an important section, are afraid of coming forward in consequence of the sectarian bitterness aroused by a recent attack on Protestantism by Archbishop Redwood, of New Zealand.

The Rev. Robert McClelland, hon. chaplain 1st Cameron Highlanders, writes to 'The Times'—I have just received from a man signing himself "W. T. Stead" a letter and a document headed "What is now being done in South Africa." As one who has just returned from the front after nine months' service, and seen the whole campaign from Norval's Point to Pretoria and back again, I have no hesitation in saying that both statements, taken as a whole, are simply a tissue of base calumnies and vile falsehoods against British officers and men. Even where a grain of truth occurs here and there it is so perverted and exaggerated as to be real falsehood. The statements about the degradation of Boer women are, to the best of my knowledge, unmitigated slander. It is useless to argue with this man, who I fear a one-eyed partisanship has driven to extremities. I simply write this to warn all Christian ministers and people to be on their guard against these statements. Let the anonymous "British officers" disclose himself, and let us remember that Tommy, in writing home, is apt, quite innocently, "to pile on the agony." My experience of our officers and men is summed up in the words "Heroes and gentlemen."