

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS

## Note and Comment.

In France over 300 priests have left the Church of Rome within the past two years. Further losses are anticipated.

The income of the Pope last year was \$4,375,000, and his expenditure \$919,500. The accumulated fund formed from excess of income for some years is about \$30,000,000.

Can any of our scientific experts tell why it is that a Sunday rain at church time is so much wetter than a Saturday rain on the base-ball field, or a Monday rain at concert-time?

Principal Rainy joins with Principal Story in protesting against the erection of an Anglican Cathedral at Cape Town as a national memorial of British soldiers who have fallen in the war.

At every meeting of F. B. Meyer's Endeavor society, London, a "sunshine table" stands ready to receive gifts for the poor and suffering. There is also a "cripples' parlor," in which entertainments are given to cripples, and the Endeavorers carry on two missions.

Mr. George F. Pentecost, who left the Marlbone Presbyterian church in London, England, to assume the pastorate of the First Presbyterian church at Yonkers, N. Y., has been asked by the American Board of Foreign Missions to organize religious work in the Philippine Islands.

When the United Free Church of Scotland was formed last year by a union of Free and United Presbyterian churches, some Free churches refused to come into the new body, laid claim to the property and funds, and carried the case to the courts. A verdict has just been given adverse to their claim.

There is a projected union of Congregationalism and Presbyterianism in Australia. It is said to be much more probable than the union of the Congregational and Baptist forces. A difference in the system of church government is a far less important thing with some good people than the amount of water used in baptism.

Sir Sanford Fleming has presented his fine collection of exotic plants, valued at \$10,000, to the Dominion Government. They will be housed in a conservatory to cost \$4,500, to be erected on Major Hill Park, Ottawa. Plans are now being prepared for the structure. Sir Sanford's collection will form the nucleus for a winter garden.

Dr. Parkhurst used to be one of the advocates of a revision of the Confession. One of its erroneous clauses was the statement that the Pope was ante-christ. Perhaps Dr. Parkhurst would like to revise his proposed revision by changing to a stronger term, He

says now: "Tammany Hall is the secular side of the Catholic Church. There is no use in blinking at these matters. Facts are facts. Roman Catholicism as at present administered is an incubus upon the body, mind and conscience of every nation and every institution that comes in any measure under its influence and despotism." Why, the savage members of the Westminster Assembly could hardly have put the case more strongly.

The proportion of Protestants in the population of Ireland in 1861 was only 22.31 per cent.; it is now 25.70 per cent. This is due chiefly to the emigration from the Papistical countries. The Protestants of the north of Ireland are contented as a body. It is the people of the Roman Catholic counties who complain of the conditions under which they live, rebel, and leave the country. The conditions they rebel against are mostly of their own making.

It is interesting to know that Queen Wilhemina of Holland and her husband are total abstainers, and that the young Queen, who has shown she has a strong mind of her own in refusing to have any other than the husband of her choice, is having success in winning over her court to the practise of total abstinence. In most countries reforms begin in the middle class and work up and down. In this case the reform begins with the highest, and it is to be hoped will gradually work down through all the social strata and have a generally beneficent influence. If it could only become the fashion to abstain from intoxicants!

The priests of the Romish Church in New York, where the bone, supposed to be a relic of St. Anne, is exposed, are still extorting money without limit from the suffering and afflicted among the superstitious of their people. Of course there are and can be no cures except such cases as those that are cured by "Christian Science"; that is, those which are imaginary. Such cases may be relieved by any of these imaginative agencies. It is a pitiful thing to read of these poor people duped as in pre-Reformation days, and as in papal hands. Such agencies are for the spread of disease, but not its cure; for the spread of superstition, but not of religion.

A New York physician, writing in the Sun, gives what he thinks is the secret of Rev. Campbell Morgan's success as a preacher, as follows: He believes the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, and preaches it—preaches a theology that has in it the old-time backbone of the Christianity of other days, not the emasculated, gelatinous, namby-pamby swash that so many of our cold-hearted, semi-eshetic D. D.'s are so freely dispensing to the people in many of our evangelical churches. The real trouble with many of our ministers is that they have lost faith in the Bible and orthodox Christianity, and yet retain their positions, preaching everything but the Gospel of Christ.

The Roman Church, aided by the Duke of Norfolk, is supplying the Roman Catholic Cathedral at Westminster, London, with relics, to be the objects of pilgrimages. Among the first secured are the bones of Edmund, King of East Anglia, and the hand of St. James, said to have been brought from Germany to England in 1183. A considerable number of people in London have grave doubts as to the genuineness of these articles.

Rev. G. Campbell Morgan has this to say about "faith healing": "I am sometimes asked if I believe in faith healing and I always say absolutely 'no.' I believe in divine healing, which is a very different matter. I do not think there is any healing that is not divine. When I am ill I will get the best medical skill I can and thank God for it every time, perfectly sure that, under certain conditions and at certain points, for certain reasons, God can heal me without medical skill if He wills to do it. What I object to in the nonsense talk of to-day is that God must heal me if I want it, whether He wills or not." This is the true position. "The powers that be are ordained of God" and the power of the drug over the human system is of His appointment. How else can we account for its effect, except from the fact that He who made the human body made also the substance which corrects its ailments. We can understand the theory of those who hold Satan to be the author of disease, but it is certainly rather inconsistent to make him also the author of medicine. According to this, Satan is divided against himself, and cannot stand.

There seems to be considerable unrest among the Irish Protestant; the present government of Great Britain has a strong majority but it is charged with executive weakness. The following paragraph from the British Weekly Correspondence is only a specimen of the kind of statement that is quite common now. "Publicity would seem to be the only crime recognisable by the Irish government. It is well known throughout the country, and the pronouncements of judges and others have communicated the intelligence even to Dublin castle that there exists a system of terrorism participated in both by Nationalist politicians and priests which is interfering with the civil and religious liberties of the people and working untold suffering. Yet the Government tolerates it because it is mainly in secret, and allow politicians in Sligo and priests in Limerick to do with impunity that for which the chief Baron inflicted last week twelve months imprisonment or Arthur Trew the politico-Protestant street preacher of Belfast. The poor self-constituted demagogue of the north has met a deserved punishment but what men in Ireland who love equity are asking with vehemence is when will the government bring to justice the Limerick priest, who on street and in Court of justice has incited the people to attack Dr. Long and the Sligo league, who has rendered life a torture to all who to all who repudiate its authority."