

# Dominion Presbyterian

1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS

## Note and Comment.

The statistics for 1903 show that the Presbyterian churches of Canada and the United States comprise a membership of 2,256,000 and have 2,091,443 scholars enrolled in their Sabbath schools.

The Presbyterians of the maritime provinces have wiped out the debt on their foreign mission fund—some \$12,000. The amount contributed so far is nearly \$13,000. Such a thing—the building of a debt we mean—should not occur again.

The "Ram's Horn" gives the number of conversions reported by all the missionary societies working in the foreign fields as over 99,360. This is a marvelous showing. And yet there are those who say that foreign missions do not make any impression on the heathen world.

A despatch states that 2,000 British troops are being sent to Malta, and that British garrisons in China are also to be strengthened—probably from India. It is noted also that France is moving soldiers to her Far Eastern possessions, as well as increasing her naval strength in the neighborhood of the present disturbed area.

The British and Foreign Bible Society, organized March, 7, 1804, has sent into circulation 180,000,000 copies of the Scriptures. The American Bible Society, organized in May, 1816, has placed in circulation 72,000,000 copies—in all 252,000,000 by these societies. It is estimated that the circulation affected by other agencies will bring the total up to 300,000,000. These societies are great evangelizing agencies.

In opening the Australian Federal Parliament the other day Lord Northcote, governor-general, declared that a preferential tariff with Great Britain would secure for Australia an immense and stable market, and that he was pleased to note the cordiality with which the preferential tariff was regarded in Australia—a feeling which he was confident would be strengthened by Mr. Chamberlain's arrival.

Jubilees of Nova Scotia Presbyterian ministers seem to be in order. Within a few months the jubilees of Rev. Henry Crawford, Rev. John M. McLeod and Rev. James Thompson have been celebrated—Mr. Crawford's in P. E. Island, Mr. McLeod's in Vancouver, B.C., and Mr. Thompson's at Durham, Pictou, N.S. The presbytery of Truro, N. S., proposes celebrating the jubilee of Rev. James M. Lean, whose pastoral service was rendered at Shubenacadie, and Great Village, N.S.

We read a few days ago in a religious journal a wonderful story of a Chinese version of the Bible. It was prepared by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Schereschewsky. It was completed and published in 1874. A few years later the Bishop was paralyzed and sent home an almost helpless invalid. However, he revised his version in Mandarin,

and made a new version in simple, chaste Wenli, a popular edition. He wrote out the whole version on a typewriter in Roman letters with two fingers. He calls it a "two-finger Bible."

The Glasgow Leader, speaking of the Transvaal government's proposals to work the South African mines by importing "indentured Chinese labor"—"three years unbroken serfdom"—says: "Unless China proves unaccommodating, there will be imposed, for mere self's sake, upon our country the scandal and the shame of reintroducing into the empire a system that is barely distinguishable from the slave trade and slavery it has been our pride to have abolished." This is plain speaking.

Writing on the divorce question in a United States Journal, W. S. Harwood, presents the following startling contrast between the conditions in Canada and the United States: "In the thirty-four years between 1867 and 1901, the divorces granted in the Dominion of Canada numbered sixty-nine. In the same period, in the United States, the number of divorces granted was nearly seven hundred thousand." The Christian Observer comments as follows: "In a legal aspect, the reason for this healthy state of affairs in Canada lies in the good and sensible restrictions that are thrown around such an application."

The American Bible Society in its eighty-seventh annual report announces that its publications last year comprised nearly 2,000,000 Bibles, Testaments and portions, the largest output of its history. About half of this issue was in English; the rest in practically all the languages of the globe. In Porto Rico the circulation of the Scriptures leaped from 3,000 the year before to 10,000 last year. In two years the demand in the Philippines rose from 11,000 to 91,000 copies. In Syria the sales of Arabic Bibles keep the presses crowded to the limit, while in China the request for God's word has grown so extraordinarily in the past that it is useless to think of keeping pace with it without new and faster presses.

The Southwestern Presbyterian (New Orleans) makes the following complimentary reference to a Canadian who has just returned to his native land to fill an important position: "Prof. G. C. Creelman, from Canada, was for several years a member of the faculty of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Starkville, Miss. Soon after entering on this work he joined the Starkville Presbyterian church on examination, and it was not long until he was inducted into the office of Deacon. A recent Toronto journal announces that he has been placed at the head of the Agricultural College of the Province of Ontario."

The evangelistic mission of Dr. Torrey and Mr. Alexander in Birmingham, Eng., seems to have been a great movement. The London Presbyterian says: "In the great Midland city the movement has perhaps been deeper than in any place yet visited; fully 7,000 persons were spoken with as seeking the way of salvation, and all of these are kept hold of

and referred to their own ministers. So many years have passed since a great religious movement has taken place that we have almost forgotten what it is like. It looks, however, as if we were again to be visited, as in the ancient days, by the mighty working of God's Spirit."

The census of church attendance taken by the London Daily News some time ago, is still the subject of a discussion on both sides of the Atlantic, which is developing some interesting facts. In the whole of England the Anglican church numbers 2,050,718 communicants and the Non-conformists 2,010,718 showing the former to be ahead by 40,000. But in Sabbath schools and Sabbath school teachers the Non-conformists have a considerable lead. In the matter of S. S. pupils the latter report 3,389,848 and teachers 391,690; while the Anglicans report 2,919,413 and 200,203 respectively. The Daily News census indicates the falling off in church attendance in London is confined almost entirely to the Anglican denomination.

How deadly a poison the nicotine of the cigarette is, is thus described by Dr. J. H. Kellogg, of Battle Creek, Michigan, as the result of experiments recently made by him: "A few months ago I had all the nicotine removed from a cigarette, making a solution out of it. I injected half the quantity into a frog, with the effect that the frog died almost instantly. The rest was administered to another frog with like effect. Both frogs were full grown and of average size. The conclusion is evident that a single cigarette contains poison enough to kill two frogs. A boy who smokes twenty cigarettes a day has inhaled enough poison to kill forty frogs. Why does the poison not kill the boy? It does kill him. If not immediately, he will die sooner or later of weak heart, Bright's disease, or some other malady which scientific physicians everywhere now recognize as the natural results of chronic nicotine poisoning." Is it not an appalling sight to see so many young men, many of them mere lads, deliberately and persistently inhaling imbecility, disease and death by smoking cigarettes? Commenting upon Dr. Kellogg's startling statement, a writer in the Herald and Presbyter says: "Just think of it, parents, teachers, and all who are interested in the rising generation. Do we want those who are to succeed us as citizens of this great Nation to be mental and moral imbeciles? If not, we must not only use our personal influence to save the young from forming this deadly habit, but must insist upon legislation to prevent it. The man who will poison all his neighbors' boys, if he can, in order to make a little money, deserves not only social ostracism, but fine and imprisonment."

The veteran missionary the Rev. John S. Moffat, son of Dr. Robert Moffat, and brother-in-law of Dr. David Livingstone, has issued an emphatic protest against the importation of Chinese labor into South Africa, and the official organ of the congregational Union of South Africa warmly endorses his action.