

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

The consumption of liquors in Newfoundland in 1871 was 212,616 gallons, or 1.32 gallons per capita. The consumption for 1908 was 153,427 gallons, or .63 gallons per capita.

Out of 2,000 men and women who have received training in the Moody Bible Institute, 460 are now on the missionary field under the direction of the various boards or in connection with independent missions.

In Budapest the Hungarian Government has built 400 houses for workmen on real estate obtained from the city at a very low price. These houses contain 192 flats; seventy-nine have each two rooms and a kitchen, and the others one room and kitchen. The rent of these flats is between \$60.90 and \$81.20 a year. The buildings were constructed at a cost of \$203,000.

Some years ago Sir Wilfrid Lawson told in the British Parliament of a little girl who prayed that God would protect the little birds, and keep them from entering the trap her brother had set. "Do you think God will answer that prayer?" she was asked. "I am sure He will," she confidently replied. "What makes you so sure?" "I smashed the trap!" How many of Satan's traps have been destroyed?

A correspondent of the "Manchester (England) Guardian" hears "on good authority" that Mr. Balfour's former sympathies on the question of woman's suffrage have been weakened by the militant tactics, and that he is now for practical purposes an opponent. Perhaps the truth is (adds the correspondent) that while Mr. Balfour would be strongly pressed by his family, including Mr. Gerald Balfour, to take up the suffrage question, he would have to face a formidable opposition in any cabinet that he might form.

Africa now has 2,470 missionaries who are assisted by 13,089 native Christian workers. There are 4,789 places of worship, 22,154 communicants, and 527,799 professed adherents. In the 4,000 missionary schools there are 292,390 pupils, and there under missionary direction ninety-five hospitals and sixteen printing establishments. In Uganda, which was a pagan and unexplored country, thirty years ago, one-half of the 700,000 population are enrolled as Christians. Out of 700,000 population Cape Colony has 200,000 negro Christians.

In Persia it will be remembered that Russia took the opportunity of the disturbed condition of affairs to send troops in the northern portion of the country and to the capital. She probably intended to support the Shah, but the Constitutionalists were too strong, perhaps, for the Russian force, and Russia acquiesces in the charge of government. But her troops remain, and she is gradually assuming control of the northern portion of the territory, which the new government is powerless to prevent. In time she will annex a large part of Persia.

The Turkish Government has officially repudiated liability for the foreign claims in connection with the Adana massacres. It had, however, appropriated \$500,000 for damages and indemnity to the sufferers, but none of the money has yet been paid. Although this sum would probably be very inadequate, its payment would have an excellent effect in showing the sympathy of the new Turkish Government and in discouraging future outbreaks. This is a difficult matter to deal with. It is claimed, and now generally believed, that the Adana massacres occurred by the direct order of the deposed Sultan.

Della M. Gilbert has abruptly resigned her position as high priestess of the new and independent Christian Science church. Questioned by a reporter, Mrs. Gilbert said: "I am dropping the whole business. I don't feel strong enough to carry out this reform movement. It seems to me I did enough in exposing the sham of Mrs. Eddy's leadership and the frauds perpetrated in her name. But, never fear, the work I started will surely be carried out by others."

The expedition sent out by the British Museum two years ago to study the native tribes in Kasal basin, a vast unknown area of the Congo Free State, took out with them a small English clock-work elephant, which greatly impressed the natives. In every village the exhibition of this elephant, with its movable trunk and legs, evoked the greatest interest and surprise, not unmixed with fear. All the inhabitants of the village would come out when they heard that the white man was going to show them his "medicine," but they were always careful never to go near the mysterious toy.

Much of this world's sadness comes from things that ought not to bring lasting sadness at all—such as poverty, and disease, and death. And that which is saddest of all is often least sorrowed over. "There is nothing sad but sin," said Charles W. Gordon ("Ralph Connor") to an audience of Christian people who had gathered to consider methods of leading their fellow-beings into the service of the only Conqueror of sin. Why should we let our lives be saddened by those orderings of God which He can make into blessings for us if we will? And why should we welcome into our lives that death-blight which is the sure cause of the only sadness worthy of the name?

Referring to the country fairs, the "Patrie" deprecates the gambling which is allowed there in a number of cases, and says: "One really cannot understand how such an abuse can so openly exist. What is the matter with the provincial police? Its officers cannot be ignorant of what takes place, since they are on the grounds. In many places the ministers who attend the fairs may have been eyewitnesses themselves. In the name of the whole better element of our country districts, we draw the attention of the Attorney-General to these flagrant violations of the law. In the interest of public morals and for the good of the agricultural classes, these abuses must be repressed. Let the government not hesitate to take a firm attitude. If needed, let it refuse the usual grant to those agricultural societies which for the sake of a paltry money consideration, may persist in sheltering such an infamous trade."

The largest no-license city in the world is Worcester, Mass. The Christian Endeavor World summarizes the benefits during the last year as follows:

A decrease of more than one-half in arrests for drunkenness. Noticeable diminution of arrests for assault and battery, larceny, neglect and non-support, disturbing the peace. Half as many alcoholic patients treated at the city hospital. Deaths from alcoholism diminished from thirty to six (and two of those came immediately after no-license went into effect). Decrease of seventeen per cent. In the general death-rate of the city. The city's manufacturers almost a unit in asserting that no-license has meant better workmanship and fewer workers discharged. The city's grocers declare that, in spite of the business depression, their bills are paid more promptly than before. Fewer inmates in the jail than for twenty previous years.

In the China Inland Mission, which was commenced forty-four years ago, there are now 928 foreign missionaries residing at 210 stations. During the past year, forty-five new workers joined the mission, three missionaries died and fourteen retired. Since the commencement of the mission, 30,000 Chinese have been received into church fellowship, and of these, more than 21,000 survive. During the year 1908, there were received 2,507 into fellowship.

Civilization is advancing. The Federal Union of the South African Colonies, with Cape Town as the seat of its Legislature and Pretoria of its Government, is a most satisfactory constitutional outcome of years of hatred and suspicion, culminating in a most regrettable war. There is now no reason why a free and united people possessing a constitutional government of the most modern form should not, on a foundation of peace and progress, develop the resources of the country—make it increasingly profitable and attractive to immigrants and extend the blessings of law and order amongst the native tribes. South Africa offers a great field for religious enterprise under the new regime—safeguarded by British institutions.

The Independent relates an amusing incident illustrative of the absurdities and inconsistencies of ignorance and superstition. The Emperor of Germany purchased a fine site on Mount Zion for \$20,000 and gave it to the German Benedictine Order. On it they have built a splendid church and a spacious convent. But there was needed a chime of bells for the campanile, and that had been presented, but the Turkish Government, liberal as it is, refused to allow the bells to be mounted, instigated by the dervishes, who declared that their ringing would disturb the sleep of King David, and that he would rise and bring down some terrible calamity on the country. But there happened to come to Jerusalem a large party of German travelers or pilgrims, who visited the convent and learned of the trouble; and without asking anybody's permission, fifty of them—doctors, lawyers, merchants, and even members of the Reichstag—hailed away at the ropes and raised the bells to their place in the tower, over which the German flag was floating. Then they repaired to the church and sang, "Grosser Gott, wir loben dich." The work was merry and the thing had been done; however, the German Embassy at Constantinople used its good offices and there the bells stay, and still King David sleeps soundly.

The Rev. Robert Law, B.D., of Lauriston Place United Free Church, Edinburgh, has published a sermon on Presbyterian reunion, which he preached recently. Here is a suggestive extract: "I am not presumptuous enough to suggest any basis of union; but I am certain that since the principle of spiritual independence and the principle of national religion are both true, they cannot be irreconcilable in practice. If we would only cease for a while repeating our respective shibboleths of Establishment and Dissent, and endeavor to grasp the vital realities of the situation; if we could set the clearest heads and warmest hearts on both sides to think out the problem anew—to tell us what spiritual independence meant at the disruption, but what it necessitates and implies to-day, and not what national religion stood for in the days of John Knox, but how it may be realized in this complex modern world—I feel confident that we should find ourselves to be nearer to each other than we suppose, and that on neither side would union involve sacrifice of essential principle, or any sacrifice that ought not cheerfully to be made."