

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Lewis, of Cambridge, whose services to learning have been on so great a scale, received the degree of L. L. D. from the Edinburgh University.

It is stated that the moose, caribou and deer are having a hard time of it this winter in Canada, the deep snow in the woods making it most difficult for them to subsist.

Mr. W. M. Ramsay, Montreal, after fifty years' service with the Standard Life Insurance, on retiring, was on the 1st inst presented with an address and a handsome solid silver tea service by the company.

Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India, has created a new province on the North-West frontier, comprising the parts of the Punjab west of the Indus including Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, Kohat, Peshawar, the Khyber, Dir, Swat, Chitral and Waziristan.

Good news is reported from Bordighera about Dr. George MacDonald, the novelist. His return to the Riviera has greatly benefited his health, mentally and physically, and he is in much better spirits. There is, however, no chance of his ever writing again.

China is the greatest slave country of the world. There are 10,000,000 human beings, mostly girls and women, in servitude. China has 400,000,000 inhabitants; and there is scarcely a Chinese family of means in Hong Kong, Canton, Macao, or Amoy but possesses one or more slave girls.

An attempt was made recently by some leading provincial English Liberals to bring Lord Rosebery and Sir William Harcourt together, but neither of the two gave their friends the slightest encouragement. In fact, the intermediaries were amazed to find how complete the severance was.

Influential friends in Scotland intend to nominate Rev. C. Anderson Scott, M. A. of Kensington, as successor to Dr. Rainy in the Chair of Church History at the New College, Edinburgh. Mr. Scott is at present secretary of Westminster College Committee. He did good work at College Park Church, Willesden, and has proved a very able successor to Dr. Moinet at Kensington.

The National Bank of the Transvaal has issued a report for the years 1899 and 1900, showing a profit for the period of £111,931. It is stated that the losses occasioned directly by the war are under £10,000 (including £6000 forcibly taken from the Ermelo branch by officials of the late Government). The nominees of the late Government on the board of directors have been disqualified by the Military Governor of Pretoria.

The deposits on hand in the Dominion Government savings banks on December 31 last stood at \$15,706,285. During the month of January they amounted to \$240,821 additional, and in the same period the sum of \$218,582 was withdrawn, making a balance in all of \$15,728,524.

Queen Wilhelmina and Prince Henry have received deputations bearing wedding gifts. The nation's gift consisted of a diadem, a necklace, two bracelets of diamonds and sapphires. Other presents consisted of silver and china services. The railways furnished a complete royal train.

The London campaign of the great simultaneous mission is over. On the whole, says an exchange, it has been a great success. Large congregations, many conversions, much good to Christian people, are some of the results. If such success is obtained in London the results of the provincial missions ought to be far greater.

A proposal is at present before the Presbytery of Edinburgh "to consider how the Church can best assist parishes within the Presbytery where the regular ministry is unable to overtake the work," the mover in the matter declaring that some such step is necessary for the purpose of disseminating the knowledge of the Gospel.

Dr. Samuel Smiles, if he lives to see the end of next year, will be 90 years of age. The book which made his name famous in nearly every country in Europe—"Self Help"—was, strange to say, the result of friendly lectures which he used to deliver to railway employees when he was secretary to the South Eastern Railway, which position he occupied for 21 years.

Not many years ago the present Archbishop of Canterbury, then Bishop of London, went down to Exeter to make a speech on temperance. In the course of his observations he happened to remark—"I was never drunk in my life!" and the next morning all the placards of the Exeter papers came out with the words—"Startling statement by a bishop!"

It is with deep regret that Canadians of all classes and scientists in all parts of the world have heard of the death, which took place from acute bronchitis, on the 2nd inst., of Dr. Geo. Mercer Dawson, son of the late Sir Wm. Dawson, and head of the Geological Survey of Canada. Dr. Dawson was born at Pictou, N. S., and was educated in Canada, in Scotland and in the Royal School of Mines, London, of which he was an associate. His first scientific appointment was as geologist and botanist to the British North American Boundary Commission in 1873-4. In 1891, he was appointed one of the Behring Sea Commissioners, and made extended observations on the life and history of the fur seal. He was president of the Royal Society of Canada in 1894.

The population of the whole world is about 1,500,000,000. Of this Great Britain and her Colonies has 25.9 per cent; Russia, 80.9 per cent; France 6.3 per cent; United States, 5.7 per cent; Germany, 4.6 per cent; Austro-Hungary, 3.1 per cent; Italy 2.2 per cent.

At a recent meeting of the Irish party it was decided to forbid the members of the Party in future to pair with either Liberal or Conservative members. Committees were allocated to the various departments of work, Irish and Imperial, in which it is proposed "to take an intelligent interest."

When the late Queen was born five people stood between her and the throne; that is to say she was sixth in the line of succession. It is a remarkable fact that it is a Princess Victoria (namely, the only daughter of the Duke of Cornwall and York) who now stand sixth on the list. The Kaiser is twenty-eighth on the list; that is to say, he comes after all the issue of the late Queen's sons have been excluded.

The Presbytery of London North discusses the question of the appointment of a stated evangelist by the Synod. Some speakers felt that special peril attended the professional evangelist. Others favoured the setting apart of ministers to undertake evangelistic work for brief periods. The Presbytery, on a vote being taken, decided to recommend in favour of a continuance of the present mode of setting apart ministers as temporary missionaries, and against the appointment of a stated evangelist.

The Rev. John McNeill, the big gun of the Free Church Mission, has been called "the Scottish Spurgeon." He is one of the great pulpit forces of his generation. He has his critics, of course, as Spurgeon had, and there are those who would like him to remember that he was not educated at a university, and forget that he once worked on the railway. But John does not forget it. He is still, now that he is famous throughout the world, the same homely, hearty, charmingly blunt and perilously frank John McNeill who sold railway tickets behind the little window in Greenock railway station nearly thirty years ago.

Incense was used on a recent evening at St. Cuthbert's, South Kensington, at a festival of church workers. At the Magnificat both persons and objects were censured. After a striking sermon by Canon Pollock, of Rochester, on the "Sovereignty of Self Control," a long procession perambulated the church, singing hymns. It included 200 workers, of both sexes and all ages. On either side of the crucifix were borne two lighted candles and the incense, numerous banners of the Blessed Virgin, St. Cuthbert, and others, with the badges of the various orders, presenting a remarkable sight. How will the new Bishop of London regard this audacious revival?