

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Notes and Comments

Mr. Ira D. Sankey, who is likely to visit England in September, has been asked by the Rev. Thomas Spurgeon to take part in the reopening of Metropolitan Tabernacle.

The Vali of Damascus is reported to have discovered the remains of a library which escaped annihilation at the hands of Tamerlane when Damascus was destroyed by him in 1401.

The removal of the late Duke of Argyll from the House of Lords now leaves exactly half of the twenty-two Dukes who sit in that assembly without sons to succeed them.

An entertaining newspaper correspondent has discovered that Oliver Cromwell resided between the Salt Market and Stockwell Street during his stay in St. Mung's city some 270 years ago.

Northern Europe contains the following estimated number of total abstainers: Sweden, 261,000; Norway, 200,000; Denmark, 100,000; and Finland 20,000; an aggregate of 581,000 adherents.

The Presbyteries of Philadelphia and Philadelphia North are arranging for an aggressive evangelistic campaign during the coming summer. The success of a similar campaign last year has led to this step.

Her Majesty, in order to reward those who have rendered important services in the Indian Empire, has created a new decoration designated "The Kaiser-i-Hind Medal for Public Services in India."

Lord Roberts is stated to be the only man living entitled to wear two Victoria Crosses. One he won nobly, and wears on his left breast; the other—won by his son—he is commanded to wear on the opposite side.

The British Government keeps 11 vessels at work sounding and charting the ocean beds to find out where dangers lurk. Last year 10,600 square miles were carefully charted in different parts of the world—Asia, Africa and South Pacific.

South Carolina has the honour of standing first among the States of the Union in the proportion of Presbyterians to other denominations, with the possible exception of New Jersey. The State has a larger proportion of her people professed Christians than any other.

It is said that the best women speakers of the Royal Family are the Princess of Wales and the Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll). Both these Royal ladies are capable of saying the right thing at the right moment, and, indeed, when the occasion demands, can make a capital speech.

The latest anecdote about Dr. Randall Davidson, Bishop of Winchester, is that, after a recent ecclesiastical function, as the clergy were trooping into luncheon, an unctuous archdeacon observed, "This is the time to put a bridle on our appetites!" "Yes," replied the bishop; "this is the time to put a bit in our mouths!"

Russia has just resumed the last of the bank notes which it issued specially to carry on the Crimean war. It has taken that country fully 20 years to reform its finances over that event, but it has done it most thoroughly.

A correspondent writes in this month's Life and Work regarding Rev. James Robertson, Church of Scotland chaplain to H. M. Forces in South Africa—"It is no exaggeration to say the whole of Methuen's army and especially the Highland Brigade, deem his bravery worthy of the V.C."

Sir George White who presided at the meeting, spoke of the increased temperance of the besieged at Ladysmith, and said the Government should provide a temperance room in every barracks, as had been done in India. He believed one-third of the 70,000 men in India were abstainers.

"In this passage, brethren," said the Rev. Dr. Sixthly, closing the volume, "Paul suggests somewhat obscurely the great doctrine of the general resurrection. Let us see if we cannot bring it out a little more clearly." The good Doctor then proceeded to show where in Paul had failed to grasp the real idea.

It has been well said that the Confession of Faith does not purport so much to be what we believe as what God teaches in His Word. If it be the truth of God men might as well get themselves into the attitude of believing it. There is nothing in any part of the Confession any harder to believe than much that is in various parts of the Bible.

The Bill for the government of Hawaii, which has just passed the Senate, contains a clause forbidding the island legislature from granting licences for the sale of liquor in public houses. This is in accordance with the wishes of the leaders in Hawaii, who desire to prevent the destruction of the natives by the introduction of intoxicating drinks.

At the Presbyterian General Assembly in St. Louis Mo., last week it was resolved to appoint a committee of fifteen to consider a statement of doctrine and report to the next Assembly. This rather disappointed the revisionists, but there were six different views on revision, expressed in 88 overtures to the Assembly, and so a united front now was out of the question.

Recent statistics of the number of total abstainers in the Congregational ministry show a remarkable increase. Out of 5,800 ministers in England and Wales, no less than 2480 are abstainers, while in 1890 only 703 out of 2,080 ministers were returned as advocates of the principles of temperance. In most of the denominational colleges the whole of the theological students are also abstainers.

A farmer stepped into a printing office and said to the editor: "I'd like to take your paper, but I'm too poor." "Go home," said the editor, "and pick out a hen call her mine, sell or save the eggs from her for me, and if she wants to set, let her, and next fall bring her and the produce from that hen. I'll send the paper." When fall came he found he was paying the price of two papers. After that he was never too poor to take a paper.

In most of congregations the defined duties of the deacon are supposed to be performed by trustees, but as they are not defined to the popular sense, they are frequently not performed at all.

Now comes a Cleveland pastor and affirms that the Confession of Faith was a good thing in its day but that now it might be said of it as of John Bunyan: "Good, but dead." This is just what Arminians Universalists, etc., have been saying for years. One of their stock phrases is that "Calvinism is dead." The assertion is too musty and absurd to even require denial.

The fashion of giving war names is now all the rage in Wales. Numbers of boys have been christened Redvers, while Roberta, Tegela, and Lady-smith are popular names for girls. One baby is said, on good authority, to have been named Modderina Belmontina Methuena Jones. The mother is the widow of a reservist. At least one child has been called Robert Kitchener.

The Churchman (Protestant Episcopal, New York), bursts forth bands of an exclusive ecclesiasticism and comes out forcibly on the side of true Catholicity in the following words: "That Christ came to found a church we are all agreed; that His church is now in existence we know; that Christ will carry on His work of redemption through the church, and that the church will be sufficient for the work, all churchmen believe; but from this to the assertion that the American church is the whole of that church, or that the Anglican communion is the whole of the church, or the Anglican with the Geek, or the Roman, or both, or any other combination or aggregation of Catholic, bodice, seems to us astounding assumption."

The wholly impracticable scheme of dominant temperance reformers of this country have their counterpart in Great Britain. In a recent interview The Christian (London) says: "We are sorry to see a rather unpractical attitude on the part of some temperance workers. It is obvious to all students of the problem that retrogression, instead of progress, has been made in the past four years, and some change of policy is essential. The enormous growth of the liquor interest and the distribution of its influence call for a serious union of all reformers. This must mean concession of individual views for all the common achievement of the great task. We hope this course will be adopted in view of the importance of the issue."

The annual report of the Dominion Bank found in another column of this issue must be gratifying to the shareholders and will be seen by all to be of a most satisfactory character. It shows the net profits for the year amount to \$214,812, which is 14.29 per cent. on the paid-up capital. The four quarterly dividends of 3 per cent. each absorbed \$180,000, so leaving \$34,812 of profits to be otherwise disposed of. The proposal to increase the capital was favorably received by the shareholders and fully justified, as shown by the vice-president, Mr. E. B. Osler, in his address, by the increasing business of the bank, which has extended its operations to Manitoba and Montreal. Owing to the limited circulation the bank has been worked at a disadvantage heretofore. The position of the Dominion Bank is excellent and the hopeful forecast of the vice president will, it may safely be anticipated, be fully realized.