

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Knox's Church, Perth (Rev. John Rainnie), has declined to accede to the request of the Presbytery to hand over the church property to the legal Free.

Sir Andrew Fraser, Governor of Bengal, virtual ruler of eighty million people, is the active president of the Calcutta Young Men's Christian Association.

The recent census of Mexico shows that there are nearly 52,000 Protestants in that Central American Republic. This shows a rapid growth in Protestantism in recent years.

A Baptist in Scotland, who does not desire his name to be known, has offered three prizes of £50 each for England, Wales, and Scotland and Ireland for an essay on "Christian Stewardship."

Rev. Alexander Connell, B.D., pastor of the Regent Square Church, London, has accepted a unanimous call to the Sefton Park Church, Liverpool, recently made vacant by the resignation of Rev. Dr. Watson.

"Il Santo," a religious novel by Feguzzo, a Catholic, has been placed on the Index of forbidden books by the Pope, which has advertised it widely, and caused an immense sale. A translation has been published in London.

An Italian lady of high rank who recently died left a legacy of \$3,000 to a newspaper in recognition she said, of her gratitude for having been often entertained by it. Such a legacy in this country would give the testator more than high rank. She would stand alone and unrivaled.

Boston is preparing for an evangelistic series of meetings in the fall, beginning in the latter part of October and lasting for at least a month. Gipsy Smith is to come from London and lead the meetings, and it is hoped that the interest will spread all over New England. Preliminary meetings will be held during October. An executive committee of fifteen has the matter in charge.

A new charitable society has been organized in New York. It is called the Association for the Blind, and its main object is to find employment for persons thus afflicted. It is said that arrangements will be made to instruct the blind in the trades and occupations suited to them. The society also has planned a system whereby it can keep in touch with those registered with it, and find work for them.

A freakish census of English and Welsh prisons was made recently, and the 21,880 occupants claimed belief with the creeds of the different denominations as follows: Church of England, 16,069; Roman Catholics, 4,397; Jews, 257; Wesleyans, 352; Baptists, 132; Presbyterians, 79; Primitive Methodists, 65; Congregationalists, 53; Unitarians, 13. A number made the creditable showing of one, each, and only about fifty disclaimed all religious belief.

Alfred Austin's new poem, "The Door of Humanity," is said to contain the poet-Laureate's message to his time. It is a poem of encouragement to those who in the darkness grope after truth, knowing that if they be content to suffer for the truth the quest shall not be in vain. It is a poem of hope for all who realize that love may lead us, even though we be half blind, to the shore of that sea where in God's light we may see light."

Whatever else may be said of Hon. W. J. Bryan, this is to be written in large letters to his credit: He is not only a Presbyterian Elder, but he is a thorough Christian. He has conscientiously kept the Sabbath day in his travels. Recently he declined a dinner to be given in his honor on Sabbath day, saying: "I am sorry, but it's Sunday, and I go to church. Won't you go with me?" What a vast difference it would make if all our public men were of his stamp.

And now the Superior Court of Los Angeles, California, has decided that tuberculosis is ground for a divorce, and has granted one accordingly. It seems that the old vow "for life or for death" is to become a meaningless one, and the loyalty that accepts "for worse," with a new and deeper tenderness, is to go out of date. Isolation for consumption may be necessary before the great white plague of America is conquered, but no manly man or womanly woman will make it an excuse for an opportunity to marry another.

A number of the leaders of the Scotch Established Church have under consideration a suggestion for Presbyterian reunion. The proposal is that the Established Church should appoint a committee to collect information, with a view to ascertaining whether it is possible to arrive at common ground from which negotiations could be commenced. The matter has not yet come officially before the Church, but the suggestion has, on the whole, been favorably received. It is not yet too late for the Presbyterians of the old land to follow the good example shown by their brethren of Canada and Australia.

Rev. Mr. Shearer, the efficient secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance, while disappointed at some of the amendments made to the Lord's Day Act when passing through parliament, as tending to weaken the law in some points and rendering enforcement difficult in some respects, considers that the law is a marked improvement on all previous Sunday legislation. In an interview he makes it plain that the friends of the Sabbath will keep up the fight and seek the removal or modification of obnoxious amendments particularly those made in the Senate. That is right. The friends of the Sabbath, remembering that "eternal vigilance" is the price of liberty, must not lay down their arms. There is a lot of work yet to be done in order to ensure to the working men of Canada the enjoyment of their Christian Sabbath.

The Rev. Hugh Black occupied the pulpit of St. George's, Edinburgh, on Sunday, the 8th of July, for the first time since his resignation. At both services the seating capacity of the church was taxed to its utmost. In the evening, at twenty minutes before the hour of service, there was a queue of at least five hundred strangers stretching down the street from the side entrance, and this was continually being added to by a stream of fresh arrivals. It was an inspiring sight, on a lovely summer evening, when the pleasures of the open air are so alluring, and surely it was a marked tribute to the power of the preacher. One observed with satisfaction the large proportion of young men among the crowd. Mr. Black looked bronzed and well after his holiday. "Let's Choice" was the theme of his sermon, and he succeeded in investing this well-worn subject with amazing interest and impressiveness for his hearers. Mr. Black leaves Edinburgh to take a professorial position in Union College, New York.

In a recent address, the Rev. Dr. Monro Gibson claimed that the average giving of the membership of the English Presbyterian church for foreign missions exceeded that of any other Presbyterian, Methodist, Independent, or Episcopal church. The givings of twelve other churches, which he had carefully analysed, varied from 1s. 6d. annually per member to 5s. 3d.; those of the English Presbyterian church amounted to 5s. 9d. per member. During the last twenty years the annual foreign mission expenditure of the church had advanced (by the natural growth of the work) from £13,000 to £20,000.

We are requested to say that Mr. E. Tennyson Smith, the well-known English Temperance Advocate left Boston Tuesday, July 24, on the Saxonia after a tour in the United States of nearly two years, which has been a pronounced success. His departure has been occasioned by the death of his wife, whose remains he desires to convey to their native land. Mr. Smith's service on this side the Atlantic are in such demand that he has expressed his intention to return in the fall after filling some important engagements in England. Letters addressed to him at the Headquarters of the Twentieth Century Pledge-Signing Crusade 107 Tremont street, Boston, will be forwarded to his English address.

Statistics prepared at the office of the Ontario Board of Health show that consumption still holds its deadly sway. In 730 divisions of Ontario there were 2,181 deaths during the month of May. Of infectious diseases tuberculosis was responsible for the greatest number of fatalities. There were 244 cases and 233 deaths. Forty cases of smallpox were reported through the province, but none resulted in death. It is not so very long ago since smallpox was regarded as one of the very worst scourges afflicting humanity; smallpox has now been rendered comparatively harmless. Some day tuberculosis will be deprived of its terrors, too; but in the meantime the sacrifice of its victims continues at a deplorable rate.

The sermon in which Dr. Whyte, of St. George's gave advice as to the way in which to set about the choice of a colleague in succession to Mr. Black was admirable in every way, says the Belfast Witness. Yet already there is friction in the great Edinburgh congregation. A meeting was held to elect a committee to act with the elders and deacons with a view to securing a minister. Instead of giving the congregation this unfettered right of choice, a list of some twenty names had been prepared in advance by an inner circle, and this list was read to the meeting for its acceptance. By this device the congregation was surprised into the accepting of a committee which it did not choose, but merely submitted to, and thus a task, sufficiently difficult at the best, has been made still harder. Such manipulations are a fruitful source of mischief. Selection by an oligarchy may be better than election by a multitude but so long as the law of the Churches is what it is the congregation have a right to choose their own committee without suggestion or coercion from any group of members, however influential. St. George's has begun badly by showing a lack of confidence in the people. They may in turn refuse to receive with confidence the recommendation of the committee. (It is frequently matter of complaint that in our church in Canada, moderate action often, interfere with the free action of the people, to the injury of the church.—Editor.)