

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment

Mormonism is to-day the predominating religion in five of the Western States.

The City of Santa Cruz, U. S. A., is, perhaps, the only municipality in which water is furnished free to the inhabitants for domestic purposes.

The executive committee of the American ladies' hospital ship fund has received an anonymous gift of \$8,000 from the United States, with a promise of as much more if it should be needed.

It is not what we bestow, but what we share in a spirit of sacrifice, that marks true benevolence. As Lowell puts it—

Not what we give, but what we share,
For the gift, without the giver, is bare!

Dr. Nansen has settled down as a Norwegian squire and sportsman and is now a member of the great land-owning class. His possessions, which cost a considerable sum, lie on the borders of Telemarken, to the south of Lynkopi, one of the highest summits of that district.

Sir William Turner, who is to be the president of the British Association for 1900, has held the professorship of anatomy in Edinburgh University for the past thirty-two years. He is one of the world's leading authorities on anatomy, and has written extensively on the subject.

A colored philosopher has recently given utterance to some wisdom on the temperance question: "Dee is a mighty good temperance sermon in a freight train," says Uncle Moses. "No matter how much de cars dey gits loaded, de ingine what does de work gits along strictly on water."

The Belfast Witness asks: Is it possible, after all, that General Joubert is a Scotchman? The Rev. W. S. Matheson, of the Free Church Manse, Galashiels, says—"From an old family document I have learned that after the establishment of the Reformed faith in Scotland in 1560 several Inverness-shire Roman Catholic families emigrated because of their religion to France. Among them were Cuthberts, who Gallicised their names in a variety of ways—Gobert, Jobert, Goubert and Joubert."

Dr. John Watson says, "There are four lines of proof (that Jesus is alive forevermore). The first is to cite reliable evidences that Jesus rose from Joseph's tomb—this is for a lawyer. The second is historical—the existence of the Christian Church—this is for a scholar. The third is mystical—the experience of Christians this is for a saint. The fourth is ethical—the nature of Jesus' life—this is for every one. He is alive because he could not die."

The Presbyterian Witness, writing of two Toronto congregations, says: "Bloor street congregation will give \$25,000." No: we predict that the amount will be nearer \$30,000 than \$25,000; for the congregation is very large and very public spirited. As for James Square congregation, we have no hesitation in setting it down for \$50,000. The pastor of St. James Square has given a large subscription, and set the pace for a prosperous people.

The Sultan of Turkey has been the means of establishing 10,000 schools throughout his empire, not only for boys, but for girls too—a striking departure from the traditional usage of his race.

Under the Tennyson memorial window in Haslemere Parish Church a tablet has been placed bearing the following inscription: "In memory of Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Poet Laureate, in thankfulness for the music of his words, and for that yet more excellent gift whereby, being himself schooled by love and sorrow, he had power to confirm in the hearts of many their faith in the things which are not seen—their hope of immortality; in praise of God, the Inspirer of prophet and poet, this window is dedicated by some friends and neighbors in Haslemere."

The Christmas cards and calendars for 1900 from special designs by the best artists, published by the Taber Prang Art Company, Springfield, Mass., are certainly things of beauty and will bring joy alike to purchaser and recipient. They are of varied prices, sizes and designs, and will meet the requirements of the most cultured taste, as well as satisfy the demands of the economical buyer. It is no wonder people ask for the productions of the Taber Prang Art Company's presses. This house has been long celebrated for the fine quality of the work produced year by year; but this year they seem to have excelled all their previous efforts.

The work of the German Deaconesses, says the Presbyterian Standard, is interesting and suggestive. They manage the Victoria Hospital in Cairo, Egypt, which now has an income of \$15,000, and last year they cared for 897,543 cases of sickness. The Deaconesses have important work in America, and they now own twenty-three homes, one of which is Presbyterian, situated in Newark, New Jersey. The work that the Catholic Sisters of Mercy and the Little Sisters of the Poor are doing ought to be paralleled by organizations of godly women working under Protestant auspices and Protestant restrictions.

With horseless carriages a-wheel everywhere, with electricity performing miracles in invention day by day, and with the wireless telegraph an assured success, what may we not expect, asks the Cumberland Presbyterian. A little while ago ordinary tin-type pictures were a marvel; now not only do the photographs of our friends actually reproduce the gleam of gold in the hair, the sky-tints of the eye, and the rose blush on the cheek, but we may if we insist upon it have pictures which show us the very bones beneath the beauty. What next? Some of us who have not lived long have still seen the world's systems of transportation and communication almost revolutionized; we have watched the processes by which the possibilities of printing have been many times multiplied; we have seen practically everything except our already perfect Christian religion improved. What next? He is a blundering guesser who would undertake to answer the question; and the man who limits invention to what now seems probable, or even possible, forgets what genius has already done. Will aerial navigation take the place of what will then seem the snail's pace of our lightning express trains? Will the very secret thoughts of all hearts be disclosed by some future wizard? We do not know. Stranger things are occurring. Only this we can know—it is God's world, we are God's men, the human mind is God's gift to men; and surely his favoring smile must be upon these matchless mental investigations and achievements. Omniscience certainly delights not in ignorance or intellectual indolence.

Word comes from Calcutta of the heroic work of Lady Curzon. Lord and Lady Curzon left Sima when the plague invaded the central provinces, and after having been inoculated made a tour of the stricken district in the face of awful danger. They literally lived among the sufferers, distributing relief, restoring confidence and advising the men charged with the weighty task of controlling the scourge. The Queen's request that Lord and Lady Curzon take a personal interest in her Indian subjects has been fulfilled in such a manner as to outrun even the spirit which caused the Empress of India to prefer it.

It is proposed to hold a congress of the history of religions at the Paris Exposition next year. It is to be conducted upon a somewhat different plan from that pursued by the parliament of religions at the World's Fair in Chicago. The purpose of the congress of religions as outlined by Theodore Stanton is that the sympathy of religion as considered by the parliament of religions, will give place to a scientific study of religion. It is positively asserted that the congress of religions will be free from all sectarian limitations. The Christian Register states that the reason for the change from the sympathetic parliament to the scientific congress is that the Catholic Church in France had condemned the Chicago parliament and Cardinal Gibbons with other American Catholics had declined to attend.

Roman Catholics in England have made up their minds to inaugurate the new century with an effort to spread the tenets of their denomination among the people in a greater degree than has hitherto been the case. This intention was announced by Cardinal Vaughan. Special religious services are to be held, lectures will be delivered, and Papal tracts are to be written and distributed. A pilgrimage, in which the artisan as well as the rich men will participate, is being organized, in order to visit the Pope, and a large amount of money will be presented to him as Peter's Pence. The Christian World says: The twentieth century may have many surprises in store, but we do not think the conversion of England to Roman Catholicism by "a national propaganda," announced by Cardinal Vaughan, will be one of them. The crowning in of worn eaten Catholic Spain, the proof afforded by the Dreyfus case of the hopeless demoralization of Catholic France, and the setting of the once glorious sun of Catholic Austria have sunk into the minds of the English people. Free Church Protestantism holds the future of England.

The Carleton Place Herald says of the late Rev. T. G. Smith, D.D., of Queen's College, whose sudden death is so universally lamented: "The deceased, who was within about three weeks of being seventy years of age, was born near Dunfermline, Scotland, where his father was a parish schoolmaster, and in whose school were taught the heroes whom Dr. Smith loved to picture and describe in his well known and popular lecture, 'The Boys I Knew.' Dr. Smith was a grand type of a Christian gentleman, happy under almost any circumstances and full of brightness and kindness, which he seemed to be able to communicate to all with whom he came in contact. He was an ideal lecturer, and in the opinion of some was as great a master of pathos as Ian McLaren. A few weeks ago he preached the sermons at the re-opening services of Knox Church, Beelwith, and delivered a lecture the following night. Deceased took his arts course in Queen's University, and was one of its earliest students. His divinity course he took in the United States. He was a brother-in-law of Hon. W. S. Fielding, finance minister."