

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

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## Note and Comment.

Nearly all the missionary claims for losses sustained by the Boxer massacres have been paid—a total of \$1,514,292.

Much suffering has been caused by the cold weather in England, and for the first time in many years the river Thames is frozen over.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States has raised a Twentieth Century Thanksgiving fund of (\$20,000,000) twenty million dollars. Good!

Great anxiety is felt in England at the continued indisposition of Premier Balfour, whose temporary breakdown was occasioned by the Venezuelan developments.

A year ago Berlin refused a bequest of \$120,000 for the establishment of an orphan asylum, the legacy being given on condition that the orphans should be brought up on a vegetarian diet. The city of Breslau has accepted the gift on those terms.

A judge of the supreme court of Ohio, in adjudicating upon a labor strike recently, held "that the right of employment is a property right and cannot be interfered with." He said that "men pursuing any avocation may be argued with but cannot be coerced."

The English education Act, recently passed by the British parliament, was the subject of 290 divisions in the House of Commons and seventeen in the House of Lords. The Non-conformist opponents of the measure "put up" a good fight, but the clericalists held a majority of the parliamentary votes.

The Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company has announced that it has concluded contracts for a daily service of news telegrams—or Marcunigrams—to a mail steamer sailing from Liverpool to New York, which will enable the vessel to publish a daily newspaper during the voyage. The name of the steamer is not given.

Easy divorce in South Dakota has received a set-back by a decision of the United States Supreme Court that a divorce obtained in that State by a Massachusetts man who plainly went there to get a divorce and with no intention of becoming a permanent resident, is invalid. Can South Dakota afford to have its laws discredited in that way?

Mark Twain's story about telling lies, which appeared in Harper's Magazine for December, under the title, "Was it Heaven? Or Hell?" has been read aloud and used as text for a sermon in a church in Indiana. As the story holds up to the light the rooted inconsistency of our attitude towards truth, it is not surprising that it should be used in this way. Mark Twain is apparently becoming a modern knight, bent on seeking out all that he views in the light of a sham, and launching upon it the shafts of his

sturdy sarcasm. To the North American Review for January he has contributed an article dissecting Christian Science.

On a recent Sunday China dedicated a memorial arch at Peking to Baron Von Ketteler, the German ambassador who was killed by the Boxers. "This monument," said the representative of the Chinese government, "is to be a warning to the people, a sign of the friendly relations between our two countries, and a symbol of peace."

In China a man is required to mourn three years for the death of his father, one hundred days for the death of his mother, and not at all for the death of his wife. Indeed a Chinaman would feel disgraced if he showed any sorrow on account of the death of his wife. This tells its own story of life in a heathen country with a civilization several thousand years old.

The beneficence of British administration in India and Egypt, as illustrated by actual results, draws encomiums from many journals in Continental Europe, as well as in the United States, that have no love and few kind words for our motherland. Wherever the British flag and British commerce find a footing, there the native races find their condition improved.

An American paper states that the close of the foot-ball season in that country, foists up a record of twelve players killed and eighty-five seriously injured—an increase of two and ten over the record of the previous year. Why should manly sports be so dangerous to life and limb? Because they have got so largely into the hands of the betting fraternity who regard brute force as superior in character to muscular agility.

Archbishop Ireland, of Minnesota, has put himself on record as to the liquor traffic by saying: "We have seen that there is no hope of improving in any shape or form the liquor traffic. There is nothing now to be done but to wipe it out completely." Amen! When a majority of the people of any country honestly reach that conclusion there will be danger ahead for the liquor traffic.

An editor was shot the other day by the Lieut. Governor of South Carolina. The deed was done, deliberately, in broad daylight on the public street. That such a thing should be possible and the assassin hope to go unwhipped of justice is a sad commentary upon our civilization, says the Presbyterian Standard.

Edinburgh Presbytery of the Church of Scotland has an organization for mutual association in parochial work. Speaking of the movement and its work the Glasgow Weekly Leader says: "The very title suggests immense possibilities in the direction of the strong helping the weak, a principle which is only realized with difficulty in these days when the congregational conception of Church life and work holds the field, and the tendency is for the rich to herd with the rich, and leave the poor severely alone."

Fiji was long the name given in ridicule to mission territory by those who derided missionary work. Well, Fiji is no longer missionary territory. The percentage of illiteracy is smaller than in the Catholic countries of Europe. It is now a contributor to Foreign Missions instead of a receiver of aid, and last year its people gave \$25,000 to the great cause.

A campaign for the disestablishment of the Anglican Church in England has been inaugurated in London by the Liberation Society. The promoters of the campaign condemned the recently passed education law as being a violation of the principles of civil and religious liberty, and calculated to retard rather than promote educational progress. Disestablishment was insisted upon as being absolutely necessary to secure a really national system of education.

The people who talk learnedly about the un wisdom of preaching theology should not be judging other people by themselves, remarks the Presbyterian Standard. President Patton has recently delivered a course of lectures on theology at Pittsburg that were heard with great interest by large audiences, as A. A. Hodge's lectures were heard in Philadelphia, some years ago. It is not everybody who can popularize theology. But not to appreciate it at all is a confession of shallow-mindedness.

Darwin's theory of natural selection is not being strengthened, but rather the reverse, by later experiment and study. In Harper's Magazine for February Thomas Hunt Morgan, Ph. D., Professor of Biology at Bryn Mawr College, discusses the subject in an article entitled "Darwinism in the Light of Modern Criticism." In controverting Darwin, he explains that new flower species appear suddenly, without going through any apparent process of evolution; while among animals a striking example of the same process is in the "japanned" peacocks, which appear occasionally in England, in entire flocks, and "propagate themselves quite truly." Professor Morgan gives an interesting account of the important experimental flower garden of Hugo de Vries, at Amsterdam.

An American Presbyterian clergyman, who recently returned from a visit to Germany, writes that in that country there is a real revival of evangelical teaching and preaching, which is extending, the happy results of which are being noted in many directions. As a development of home missionary enterprise, he notes the establishment of a great organization called, "The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel," the object of which is to carry the Gospel into the homes of all the Roman Catholic population of the empire. The plan of the society does not contemplate direct proselyting, but to win men and women for Christ by putting the Word of God into their hands and endeavoring to lead them to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. This is a great religious enterprise which might well be noted in Canada, where we have such a large Roman Catholic population.