

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

The oldest minister in Scotland is Rev. Robert Frew, D.D., of Stirling. He is 91 years of age and has been 69 years in the ministry.

There are more pupils in the public schools of Japan than in all Russia, notwithstanding the fact that Russia has three times the population.

There were 569 homicides committed in the state of Mississippi in the last six months. The Westminster speaks of it as "a fearful record" and so it is. The report from which that paper copied says: "this is a prohibition State;" and then adds, "illicit liquor selling is the cause of the reign of crime. When will we wake to fight this demon?"

A report compiled by W. J. Semelroth, of St. Louis, chief Secretary for the World's Fourth Sunday-school Convention, held at Jerusalem in April of this year, shows that this country contains 139,817 Sunday-schools, or more than half the number existing in the entire world.

A suggestion comes from Bombay, India, that, while giving the tithe of our income is a very important thing in the upbuilding of the kingdom of Christ, it would be an even greater thing if people would give the tithe of their time to work for him. But if the one-seventh of the time which God commands to be given to him—the Lord's Day—were used as God directs, absolutely, the golden age would not be far away.

Statistics show that in the united and central provinces in India the number of Christians has trebled during the last ten years. The statistics for 1901 gave about two and one-half million Christians in India. Thirty years ago there were only about half that number. The Madras presidency furnishes 1,890,000 of the number of Christians enumerated in 1901; Bombay, 181,000; Bengal, 228,000; Burmah, 129,000.

Recent reports from the American Bible Society in the Philippines show that the Scriptures have been translated into many of the Malayan dialects, and that the translations into other native dialects are progressing favorably. Since the society was established four years ago, 272,400 volumes have been distributed.

The Rev. Charles Wagner, the great Alsatian preacher, pastor of the Evangelical Liberal Chapel of Arquebusiers, Paris, and author of "The Simple Life," "The Better Way," etc., is now in the United States, travelling and lecturing. The Christian Guardian understands an effort is being made to have Mr. Wagner visit Canada, but no announcement has yet been made of his coming. Pastor Wagner is a man of commanding personality, and of very simple tastes and habits. He has been aptly termed "the apostle of the simple life."

Mrs. Watson died at Barrington, N.S., recently at the great age of 97 years. She left to mourn her loss 7 children, 38 grandchildren, 70 great grand children and 10 great great grand-children. At Marion Bridge, C.B., Donald Morrison died on Oct. 2, at the advanced age of 85 years. The maritime provinces are a great place for octogenarians, nonagenarians and centenarians. They came of grand old Scotch and Scotch-Irish stock and thrive in a healthy and bracing climate.

The island of Bermuda has a Presbyterian congregation which is old enough to be tercentenarian. Its first church building was completed in 1719—185 years ago. The birth of the congregation, however, dates from the first settlement of the colony, in 1611. In the church building referred to the famous Rev. George Whitefield preached for eight successive Sabbaths, so that it is a building of hallowed memory. The church is now vacant and seeking for a pastor, and Bermuda is a sunny isle.

Madame Merle d'Aubigne, widow of the Swiss historian of the Reformation, has just died at Perros-Guirec, Brittany, aged seventy-seven. She was Irish by birth, and was deeply interested in all kinds of evangelistic and missionary work. Her two sons are Protestant pastors in Paris, and her daughter, Madame Zieler, is wife of the Secretary of the Sunday-school Society of France. Her son, Henri, visited Canada some few months ago.

"The facts in regard to the great international revival campaign conducted by Dr. R. A. Torrey and Mr. Charles M. Alexander," says *The Michigan Christian Advocate*, "should stop the mouths of that class of people who imagine that revivals are an impossibility in these days and that Christians are shorn of their strength. It is not yet three years since these evangelists began their work in Japan, China, Australia, and Great Britain, yet sixty thousand persons have confessed Christ under their labors, more than half of them being in Great Britain within one year."

Subterranean lakes have been discovered in the district of Eucla, in Australia, according to the *Revue Francaise*. "These lakes, situated nine or ten meters below the surface, must contain a large quantity of potable water, which is a fact of considerable interest in the very arid region where these are found. If it is possible thus to procure water in sufficient quantity, new territories will be opened to cultivation and colonization. This discovery of the subterranean lakes also explains the fact that the several rivers of Central Australia sink into the earth and are lost. The water of these streams soaks through the porous strata and forms the lakes in question. This discovery is analogous to those made in France and in various other parts of Europe by M.E.A. Martel, whose discoveries explain the sudden appearance of divers watercourses."

Roman Catholic missionaries are said to be making rapid progress in China at the

present time, and their success is largely due to their acceptance of pagan traditions and ideas, and incorporating them in their system. This was the course of Catholicism in the Middle Ages. The Catholic priests wish to get control of the people, and their course in China is consistent with their history. The evil wrought by them is in throwing the sanction of Christianity and of the Christian name around heathenism, so that a Roman Catholic Chinaman may not be very different from a pagan Chinaman. All the Protestant denominations, with the exception of some weakening on the part of the Episcopalians, insist on the acceptance of the Gospel.

"The Japanese, like the Chinese, have no alphabet in the ordinary sense, every word in their written language being represented by a separate character, says Cassier's Magazine. "In telegraphing in these languages, therefore about 10,000 words are selected, and figures ranging from 1 up to 9,999 are allotted to each word. Each word of a message to be transmitted by telegraph in these languages is then first given its proper number by the telegraph clerk, by means of a dictionary which has been prepared under the authority of the Government. These numbers are then transmitted by the Morse alphabet, and, when received, the message is translated back into the Chinese or Japanese characters by reference to a corresponding dictionary."

Speaking of music reminds the Bystander of the Pacific Presbyterian that the singing in the London churches is all that could be desired. It is simple, congregational and hearty. There are no performances by the choir. The soloist is relegated to the background, and there is probably not one quartette in all England. On the other hand, the singing is led by a choir, often of trained boys, and the people are drilled in singing and chanting. Every American visitor must be impressed with the power of English church music. In none of the churches the Bystander visited did he hear a solo or a choir selection, except the City Temple. The people go to church on time. When the minister enters the pulpit, his congregation is waiting for him. This is just precisely as it should be.

"I confess to a feeling of profound disappointment," says John Brisben Walker, in *The Cosmopolitan* (September), "with reference to the art displays at the St. Louis Exposition. To begin with, nine-tenths of the statuary is common-place to a degree. There is an absence of intellectuality; the work of copyists everywhere abounds. . . . I took a committee of five, two of them selected for their knowledge of art, through the vast art-galleries of the Exposition—in which are displayed a greater number of square yards of mediocrity than have ever been brought together before in the history of the world. It was my intention to pick out and reproduce ten really great paintings, or, at least, ten great enough for three out of five of the committee to agree upon. . . . It was with surprise that as my committee reached the last room I discovered that we had not secured the necessary three-fifths vote required to complete our list of ten."