

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

McGill University, Montreal, has recently installed two electric furnaces, taking a current of 100 amperes at 110 volts.

Marconi has sent wireless messages 200 miles from St. Catharines to the Lizard. Perfect communication has been established between these points.

Roughly speaking Britain produces for export a little less than twice as much per head of her population as the United States, France or Germany.

According to the census taken last month the population of St. Petersburg is now 1,430,000. During the last ten years the population has increased by 40,000 yearly.

Berlin has refused a legacy of \$120,000 for an orphan asylum, as one of the conditions of the bequest was that the orphans should be brought up on a vegetarian diet.

Lord Roseberry is the only ex-Premier living, and the youngest of all the Prime Ministers of the Victorian era. No other man, for at least 60 years, has been Premier at 46.

Helen Keller's mastery of articulate speech has so far progressed that she recently made a speech at the Radcliffe freshman luncheon. It was heard distinctly, and was much applauded, as it doubtless well deserved to be.

Archbishop Lewis, head of the Episcopal Church in Canada, has tendered his resignation owing to ill health, and has summoned a meeting of the house of bishops to consider the matter. Bishop Bond, of Montreal, will probably be his successor.

In the world it takes \$1,000,000,000 to support Christianity besides perhaps an equal amount in the free services if they were put in money value. These are stupendous figures which tell of the mightiness of the movement started in a manger in Bethlehem.

It is reported from Newfoundland that the seal fishing has been unusually plentiful this season. One steamer, the Southern Cross, has arrived there with some 26,000 seals, and reports that the rest of the fleet among the seals are all having unusually good catches. This is good news for the Ancient Colony, where a good or bad seal catch means either good or bad times.

The will of the late Henry Bernie, of English River, Que., contains a provision that the executors are to pay his debts from the proceeds of his property, and to provide a cemetery, in which he is to be buried, for the English River Presbyterian Church. It further provides that a monument in Scotch granite is to be built and erected on his grave—with a pair of curling stones, also in Scotch Granite.

A marked rise in the level of the Dead Sea has been noted. A broad lagoon has been formed on the north side of the Jordan delta. The water does not sink in summer, and it is surmised that the whole bottom of the Dead Sea has been raised by volcanic action.

A proposal in the Maine Legislature to resubmit the prohibitory law to a vote of the people was defeated by a large vote. The people of Maine are satisfied that prohibition even when poorly enforced, is decidedly better than any other way of dealing with the liquor traffic.

The report of Viceroy Curzon, of India, for the fiscal year indicates that the resources for that land are much greater than was generally supposed. For notwithstanding the expenditure of \$21,135,000 to relieve the famine sufferers, there is still a surplus of \$8,200,000 in the Treasury.

Recently in Paris they sent up a balloon with no passengers, but with instruments that registered automatically the greatest height attained, which was 50,000 feet (more than ten and a half miles,) and the lowest temperature, which was one hundred two degrees below zero.

In the British House of Commons Mr. Balfour, the Government leader, replying to a question on the subject, said a special Ambassador had not been sent to the Pope, but the death of Queen Victoria and the accession of King Edward would be notified to the Pope in a letter.

Clearing the Eastern Transvaal of the Boers is one of the most creditable performances in the South African campaign, and has added greatly to the already high reputation of General French, who accomplished the task skillfully, steadily and thoroughly, without any needless sacrifice of life.

The abolition of capital punishment in Colorado has not worked well. Four years experience of life imprisonment as a substitute for the death penalty showed that murders alarmingly increased. The Legislature has restored capital punishment. One of the weaknesses of the life-imprisonment penalty is that it does not mean life-imprisonment. About seven years imprisonment has been the average for murderers.

A throne has been especially built for Queen Alexandria, and is an exact replica of that used by the King. When the Prince Consort in former years appeared at Court ceremonies he sat beside the throne, and on a chair of less pretension than that occupied by Queen Victoria. Consequently there has been but one throne chair, and that just completed for the Queen is of solid mahogany, covered with gold. The embroidered seat and back were executed at the Royal School of Art Needlework.

The largest Presbytery in the Free Church of Scotland—the Remnant of the Faithful—is that of Glasgow, which has thirteen congregations, only three of them however, being in the city itself. Five of them are in Arran, one in Rothesay and one in Inveraray.

Some delegates walked hundreds of miles to attend a late Christian Endeavor convention in Mexico. One Endeavorer refused to join an excursion to the castle of Chapultepec, "because," she said, "I have come to enjoy the meetings, and I am not going to distract my mind to sightseeing."

The British Foreign Office, in spite of the settlement of the railway siding incident at Tien Tsin, intimates that the relations between Japan and Russia may soon reach the danger point. It (the Foreign Office) understands that Japan is determined to oppose, "at all costs" any secret agreements between Russia and China.

The question of the extension of the penny post between Australia and Great Britain is exciting some amount of notice at the Antipodes. It is being urged that now that the Commonwealth is unfaithful to Australia should be placed on a similar footing to the other Colonies by the adoption of a penny post to all parts of the Empire.

The London Times, commenting on the Kitchener-Botha negotiations says: "The event shows that the Boers are still hopeful of something turning up to their advantage. It is difficult otherwise to understand their rejection of Lord Kitchener's terms, which the Parliamentary papers on the subject show were lenient to the verge of weakness."

Sneezing seems an innocent act, but Dr. Koeniger, a German, declares that death may lurk in a sneeze, cough, or even the speech of a person in whose throat and lungs are the microbes of tubercular diseases. Every person should constitute himself a board of health, and endeavor to keep his own microbes at home, or else muzzle them.

According to official statements made in the Quebec legislature, of 6,068 women teachers employed in the Quebec schools, 1,870 are paid less than a hundred dollars a year. Between a quarter and a third of the people still think that thirty cents a day is sufficient pay for an educated woman engaged in the most important work the state entrusts to its servants.

It seems that the Governor General of Canada gave M. Menier, the would-be-king of Anticosti, a deserved rebuke recently. M. Menier sent a telegram of condolence on the death of Queen Victoria. The Governor General refused to accept the message because it was so phrased as to claim sovereignty over the island. It is a good thing that a man of Lord Minto's stamp is the representative of the British Crown in this country.