

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents

## NOTE AND COMMENT

It was announced in London by the Marconi Company, on August 15, that wireless messages to and from Canada have been accurately transmitted at an average rate of twenty-four words a minute.

Northern Nigeria is to have 400 miles of railway running in a great semicircle from Bari, in the north-west of Sokoto province, south-east to Bida, and north-east to Kamo. The construction is in charge of Sir Percy Girouard, K.C.M.G., son of Mr. Justice Girouard, of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Returns recently published show that during the first months of the present year the plague in India has raged with almost unprecedented violence. The number of deaths—991,000—from the disease, from January 1 to May 31, is greater than any recorded for an entire year since the appearance of the plague in 1896, with the exception of 1904 when there were 1,022,299 deaths. There were 332,181 deaths last year. The total of the deaths from plague in India from 1896 to May 31, 1907, was 5,402,245.

Mr. March Phillips, in his "Cumulative Evidence of Divine Revelation," says that compared with other mammals, man's life is shorter than, by analogy, it ought to be. In other animals the period of growth is about one-tenth to one-fifth of the whole life. The lion, full grown at five, lives for 70 or 80 years. Man living as long as the lion, is not full grown till twenty. The same proportion would give men from 320 to 400 years. Consequently, his physical life is not his normal life, it is cut very short, its brevity points to some primeval failure of vigor, to some diseased condition sapping his vitality.

A Hebrew evangelist, Mr. Philip Sandersky, of the Emmanuel Christian Mission for the Jews, Baltimore, has held extended open-air meetings for the Jews in Washington and Baltimore this summer. He speaks to his people in Hebrew and in Yiddish, and has stereoscopic views of Bible lands and Scripture stories. The meetings are orderly and the addresses are without bitterness or anything to irritate, but are the testimony of God in the Scriptures to the gift of Divine Saviour of men, who came first to the House of Israel, and then to all the world and every creature.

After a struggle that has lasted for years, the bill to legalize marriage with a deceased wife's sister has at length passed both Houses of the British Parliament. For years the British people, through the Commons, have expressed themselves in favor of it; and it was understood that the members of the Royal Family approved it; yet until this session the influence of the Lords spiritual has been so great that the measure has never been able to pass the House of Lords. Now it has passed, yet to the very last it was opposed solidly by the Bishops in the Upper House. The bill will undoubtedly become law, and thus the marriage laws in the Old Land will be made to agree with ours in this matter. The Bishops' opposition has rested upon both scriptural and ecclesiastical grounds, but it seems probable that the opposition will now quietly and gradually disappear.

It has been proposed that there should be a general celebration by Catholics of the fiftieth anniversary of the entrance of the Pope into priesthood. He has advised against it, however, and it will not be held, at least not for a year or more. There were to have been pilgrimages to Rome as a part of the commemoration, and the Pope thinks that in the present temper of the populace his visitors were likely to be subjected to insult. Such a state of affairs seems strangely inconsistent with the claims which have been made for the Church's control of and influence over a people who know little or nothing of Protestantism.

Cardinal Gibbons gives his views on the sphere of women saying: "The proper sphere of woman is the domestic life. The more she invades the domain of man the more will her social and moral status be lowered. I consider it a great misfortune that many of our leading members of female society are neglecting the duties of the household. Their habitual absence from home renders their firesides cheerless and tempts husbands to abandon home and seek comfort and companionship in clubs and other extraneous places of amusement. To my mind, this is one of the prime causes of any race suicide conditions that may exist, for where there's no love of home life there's little desire to raise children."

Ireland is a very good buyer, says The Baltimore Sun, thanks to the comparative prosperity of the country at the present time. The imports in 1904 were worth \$268,378,738 and the exports \$226,810,195. The figures suggested that Ireland is a creditor country, having income from investments abroad—income paid in commodities imported. No doubt, part of the excess of imports over exports is due to the habit of her patriotic sons abroad of sending their earnings back to the old country. Last year Ireland exported \$15,000,000 worth of butter. Her total exports of livestock, meat and fish were worth \$114,000,000; whisky, etc., \$20,500,000; crops, fruit, flour, etc., \$6,378,000. Her exports of manufacturers were worth \$43,344,000, but her imports of such goods were worth \$83,000,000.

On Wednesday, August 28, the new King Edward Sanatorium in Toronto was opened with appropriate ceremonies, and a strong appeal was made by His Excellency Earl Grey for concerted action in effectively combating the great white plague. The sanatorium is for advanced cases of tuberculosis, and will be for patients who can afford to pay a reasonable fee for maintenance. The buildings are the gifts of two Toronto gentlemen, Mr. H. C. Hammond and Mr. Robt. Mulholland. The new Sanatorium, in connection with the Toronto Free Hospital for Consumptives, the Muskoka Sanatorium, and the Muskoka Free Hospital, represent the organized effort of public-spirited citizens in Ontario in combating the dreaded plague. The progress achieved in the campaign has been most encouraging. Gradually the public has been aroused to the danger of infection and also to the possibility of cure. There seems little doubt that an enlightened public sentiment can succeed in speedily bringing the disease well under control, and possibly in finally eradicating it.

As the result of 100 years of missionary work in China, there are about a hundred and fifty thousand native Protestant Christians in the empire. The anniversary of the beginning of the work was celebrated recently in Shanghai, when Europeans and Americans interested in Protestant missions attended in large numbers. It was in 1807 that Robert Morrison, appointed by a British missionary society, and carried to China by an American firm engaged in the eastern trade, began his labors. After 35 years there were six converts and 20 missionaries. There are now nearly 4,000 missionaries, and the number of native Christians is doubling every seven years, says Youtli's Companion. The Roman Catholics have had missions in the empire several hundred years, and count a million adherents and 25 bishoprics.

The Christian Guardian has the following: The Prussian Minister of Education recently received a petition, representing a great number of interests, asking that instruction in English be made compulsory in all Prussian gymnasiums. The Prussian gymnasium corresponds to our high school; and the movement is a startling and frank recognition of the widespread influence and commercial importance of the English language. The petitions do not wish the study of English to displace that of French, for that also they esteem a necessity, but they think that, in order to enable German students to "carry on the struggle of competition with success," they should understand English. They also urge its study for economical, political, scientific and literary reasons. While it is somewhat gratifying to racial pride to note this free recognition of the value of English, yet the most important lesson lies in this, that Prussia recognizes that the training of her students must be broadened. Have we not also a similar lesson to learn? Must not our sons also compete in the near future for the markets of the world?

A converted Jew, himself a missionary to his people, writing in the "Examiner," makes the startling statement that "the Jew in America has, sad to say, eliminated the Bible from his home," and that "of the more than 900,000 Jews in Greater New York, less than 28,000 are reported as being connected with any synagogue or place of worship. They seem entirely absorbed in the work of money-getting, and are carried along by the rush of the current so that there is no time for anything else. Mr. Cohn, whose name indicates his priestly descent, in telling an experience which he gives as typical, cites an interview with an old Hebrew in which he wished to appeal to the old man's own copy of the Scriptures for confirmation of a Messianic prophecy. The reply to his request was "A Bible in America! America is only to make money. Who has time to read Bibles?" Ten families in the same tenement were appealed to in vain for a copy of the Scriptures. It is a state of affairs that is deplorable. It is the substitution of a materialistic worship of the golden calf for their old religion—or rather, a falling off from all religion; and it is a call for Christian work to rouse the slumbering faith, and raise these scattered sons of Israel to see in the Christ the promised Messiah of their people.