

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

The Presbyterian congregation of Maitland, N.S., celebrated its 101st anniversary on June 9th.

The Presbyterian Church in the United States continues its Evangelistic campaign. Last year it cost nearly \$60,000. Much fruit has been gathered from its wide scattering of good seed.

The Chicago Interior remarks that the Romanist press in the United States is valuable in its admiration of Russia and its expression of sympathy with Russia in the war. The idea seems to be that the absolute rule of the Czar comes nearer the rule that would suit the Pope than does the constitutional system in vogue in Japan.

In the bed of the river San Juan de Oro, in Bolivia, South America, a discovery was made a few weeks ago of what is described by experts as the richest gold deposits in the world. The gold is not found in quartz rock nor as a strictly alluvial deposit, but lies in large masses in the bed of the river itself. It is intended to work this deposit by the system of dredging, which has found so much favour of late in countries where large river bed deposits exist, notably in New Zealand.

Hon. Mr. Wark, the Nestor of the Canadian senate, has been sixty-two years in public life; and this session he has been in his place in Ottawa. He was for fifteen years a subject of George Third. He remembers the Battle of Waterloo. He recalls the reigns of George Fourth and William Fourth and the glorious reign of Queen Victoria; and now he is the loyal subject of Edward Seventh. Counsel from such a man deserves to be taken to heart; for he is not only an intelligent and well-read man, but also an humble and devout Christian.

In response to a petition from the inhabitants interested, the Sultan has now decided to start a service of steamboats on the Dead Sea. All the proceeds of the undertaking will go to His Majesty's private purse. There will be a land transport service from the interior of Palestine in connection with various ports on the sea, and the vast quantities of wheat, barley, salt, wool, and other products of these districts will now have a profitable outlet. A German company has already tapped the source of wealth by using mules and camels, but with the advent of the Dead Sea vessels a new era of prosperity is confidently expected.

St. Helena was visited a few weeks since with the most severe flood experienced for twenty-six years, caused by the continuance of rains in the interior for some days previous. A tremendous torrent several feet in depth for two days swept down the main waterway, which is an open culvert running through the town, carrying all before it. Jamestown being situated in a valley surrounded on either side by rocky cliffs, overhanging the town, was hardly safe to live in,

as rocks were loosened by great streams of water which poured over the hillsides, and came hurling down on the housetops, several of which were crushed. There were many miraculous escapes. A relief committee has been appointed to investigate the losses sustained by the poorer inhabitants, many of whom it is feared have lost practically all they possessed.

Interesting discoveries have lately been made by MM. de Kerviler and Le Pontois, two French archaeologists, in excavating an ancient tumulus in the estate attached to the Chateau de Keruseaux en-Oueven, near Lorient, in France. After discovering the extremities of two galleries, formed of parallel megaliths six feet high, the workmen under their direction came upon two vaults, which evidently formed the necropolis of an ancient tribe or class, among whom incineration and inhumation were practised concurrently. In addition to a pile of human remains there were found poignards and knives in silex, axes in fibrolite, and some fine specimens of spherical pottery. M. de Kerviler is of opinion that the tumulus dates from 2,000 years before the Christian era.

The Louisville Christian Observer informs us that a Protestant Episcopal monastery has been opened at West Park, opposite Poughkeepsie, N. Y., a fortnight ago. "Father" Huntington, who founded the order, has been twenty years in raising the money for the building. The order includes six monks—yes, "monks" in the Protestant Episcopal Church—and seventeen priests. It is associated with the Confraternity of the Christian Life, and a smaller society, the Confraternity of the Love of God, all exponents of extreme ritualism. They celebrate the mass, hear confessions, offer prayers for the souls of the dead, celebrate many saints' days not in the ordinary calendar, and stop short, by not recognizing the supremacy of the Pope. Recently the statement has been made that one of the worldly industries of this religious organization is to be the production of wine after the manner of some old world monasteries, the Carthusian monks of France, for instance.

The recent centenary celebration of the late Dr. Thomas McCulloch, at Picton, N.S., has recalled the fact that the most eminent of his students at Picton Academy, was the late Sir J. W. Dawson, so long principal of McGill University, a scientist whose fame has extended wherever the English language is spoken. As the Presbyterian Witness says: "In a sense Picton academy was 'mother' to McGill university, for when Dawson took hold of McGill it was in a less hopeful condition than Queen's when taken in hand by Principal Grant. It was under Dawson's splendid leadership that McGill came to be one of the foremost institutions in Canada." Another man of just and enduring fame, a disciple of McCulloch, was Dr. Geddie, who was the first Nova Scotian, the first Canadian, to organise a mission among the heathen—the true Apostle of the New Hebrides.

In July, 1872, the German parliament passed a law making the residence of Jesuits and the work of the order anywhere in the empire illegal. This law was part of the plan of the German people to assert their independence of the control of the Vatican. Then the Vatican organised its forces and a Roman Catholic party was formed in the German parliament which subordinated all other questions to that of the church, while the Protestants were split up into factions each fighting for its own petty sectional aims and seldom uniting against the common enemy. The Roman Catholic party on all questions affecting the church, held the balance of power when the other parties were divided, and could demand concessions to the Roman Catholic claims as the price of their support. Bismarck was finally beaten. His defeat, however, led to the formation of the "Evangelical band for the defence of the German Protestants." This society has for eighteen years been doing a splendid work in watching over the interests of Protestantism in Germany, and when the Los von Rom movement began, came to its support, and supplied the preachers needed by that remarkable revival. The Roman Catholic party, however, under the generalship of the Jesuits, moved slowly and cautiously, and a few months ago ventured to demand the repeal of the laws against the Jesuits as the price of its support to the government. The German Chancellor, Von Bulow, complied and intimated that the present religious situation no longer requires the law forbidding the residence in Germany of those Jesuits who happen to be German citizens. And he succeeded on the 4th of March in carrying the repeal of the now famous second clause of the Jesuit law. It is evident that this was only intended to be the first step towards the complete repeal of all the clauses of the Jesuit law. This step raised a storm and prevented further legislation in that direction. The Protestants of Germany are now thoroughly aroused. Everywhere meetings are being held to protest against any concessions being made to the most dangerous agency of the Roman Church. And the protests are not ending in mere resolutions. The membership of the Evangelischer Bund is going up by leaps and bounds. They are organizing victory. And as the "Centre" the Roman Catholic party, has made the church its politics, it is evident that hundreds of thousands of Protestants of all parties are going to make Protestantism their politics till this question is settled satisfactorily. The Kaiser has long been regarded as thoroughly sincere in his Protestantism, but his relations with the Vatican have of late been arousing feelings of suspicion, and almost of resentment, in many of his subjects. The isolation in which Germany now finds herself, and the strong emotions awakened by the concessions to the Jesuits may, perhaps show him in time that the best policy for a Protestant nation is to be true to its Protestantism and not to allow itself to be made the instrument of its own destruction by the unscrupulous wire-pullers of the Vatican. Great Britain might make a note of this advice.