

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cent

## NOTE AND COMMENT

Many a poor victim of the drink habit, says the Maritime Baptist, longs to keep sober, but what chance is there for him so long as the legalized invitation to drink meets him at every street corner? Prohibition of the miserable traffic gives such men a fairly good chance.

The United Free Church has lost a very able minister of a former generation in the Rev. George Webster Thomson, D.D., senior minister of the West United Free Church, Aberdeen. He was a friend of Dr. Marcus Dods and of Dr. Whyte, and was a sound historical scholar.

With a view to gathering information as to the commercial value and the best methods of utilizing peat bogs of Ontario and Quebec, Hon. Mr. Templeman, minister of mines, has appointed Erik Nystrom, an engineer on the staff of mines branch, to investigate the peat industry of Europe.

A committee is at work in Chefoo, China, revising the Mandarin version of the Bible. Since this version of the Bible will reach three fourths of China, it is a work of great importance and is being done with great care. In most countries the translation of the Bible has fixed the standard of the language for generations.

The increase in church members on our India field last year was twenty-five per cent. This means, you see, that many were saved from their distress as they called unto the Lord. All over the world at the present time men and women are calling on the Lord, and he is leading them out, as he led the children of Israel so long ago.

At the meeting of the Ottawa and Montreal Synod in Brockville last week the several presbyteries of the synod were requested to make urgent efforts to secure, if possible, the following amounts for wiping out the debt on Ottawa Ladies' College—Ottawa, \$7,000; Montreal, \$2,500; Lanark and Renfrew, \$1,500; Brockville, \$1,000; Quebec, \$750; subscriptions to cover three years.

Proof is forthcoming from witnesses, says the Canadian Churchman, whose evidence cannot be lightly brushed aside, that the persistent and self-denying labours of Christian missionaries in China are bearing abundant fruit. The Chinese themselves are acknowledging the signal benefits conferred on their people by their being taught the principles and practice of the Christian religion.

An American contemporary quotes the interesting fact that it is one hundred years since the first savings' bank was established. It was in March, 1807, that the British Parliament passed an act providing for such an institution and inaugurated a system which has spread over a large portion of the civilized world. Nine years later the Philadelphia Savings Fund Association opened for business, and in the same year the Provident institution was started in Boston. The Cumberland Presbyterian says it is worth while to note that the year 1807, in which the first savings bank was established, also witnessed the beginning of Protestant foreign missionary effort.

The United States and Canada give \$8,980,000 a year to foreign missions. Great Britain contributes \$6,973,000, and all other countries, \$3,327,000. The \$21,280,000 now being given is probably enough to evangelize 325,000,000 people. That leaves 675,000,000 of people not now provided for. The total amount needed is \$80,000,000 a year for twenty-five years. America's share should be \$40,000,000 a year for twenty-five years, and 20,000 missionaries, instead of 5,000, or one for each 1,000 of America's church membership.

Columbus, Ohio, has a system of penny-savings banks in connection with its schools, which is meeting with remarkable success in inculcating and encouraging the habit of saving among the children. The system has been in operation about four years, and in that time the savings have accumulated to over \$38,000, or over \$100 for each of the 3,700 children who have taken out bank-books. The deposits are governed by regular banking rules, and the depositors have the benefit of a practical training in elementary business practices, as well as the gain which comes through the saving and the habits of saving that are acquired.

A notable triumph in behalf of temperance has been achieved by The Boston Women's Christian Temperance Union. It seems that what is known as The Eastern Advertising Company controls the advertising in trolley cars for all New England. The W.C.T. Union has been putting forth its efforts to have all objectionable advertising excluded from the street cars—liquor advertisements being chief among the objectionable ones. The secretary of the company has notified the union that orders have been given that from this time on, no solicitation shall be made and no advertising be taken for liquors. Two contracts embodying a damages' clause will be dropped as soon as the contract time expires. On every hand evidence is being furnished that public opinion is steadily and rapidly developing against the liquor traffic.

We note a statement recently published to the effect that from the year 1890 to 1904 no fewer than 75,987 members of the Catholic church in Germany have become Protestants, while only 10,054 have gone from Protestantism to the Catholic communion. From Austria it is reported as something phenomenal that 75,000 Catholics have become Protestants in half a decade; and by a summary of the grand total from the different states of Germany, a marked uniformity of Protestant gain and Catholic loss is made manifest. Protestants account for their success on the theory that their church will naturally attract thinking and spiritually-minded people, and are convinced that the relative proportion of converts in their favor will increase as intelligence, culture and piety advance. Catholic journals, on the other hand, express doubt as to the correctness even of these official figures, and blame their loss generally on 'mixed marriages,' i. e., marriages between Protestants and Catholics, as experience has shown that the premartial promises, exacted by the Catholic authorities, to the effect that children born from such wedlock must be reared in the Catholic faith, are seldom realized. The losses of the Catholic churches through such marriages are phenomenal, as can be statistically shown, at least in Prussia.

The Canadian Mute, a journal published at the Deaf and Dumb Institute, Belleville, contains the following appeal:—Our desire is to enter into correspondence with the parents of all deaf children with the hope of inducing them to send them to our school at Belleville, where they may receive such training and instruction as will fit them to become useful, self-supporting and respected citizens. It is a lamentable thing that any deaf boy or girl should be deprived of the advantages of such an education when it is freely provided for them by the people of the province.

The degraded condition of Mohammedan women is well known and it has been a record with them of retrogression and degeneracy. Yet something is being done. According to a Calcutta journal there are in Turkey 1,500 schools in which girls receive education. There are forty secondary schools having 3,000 girls on their rolls. The learning of Koran is compulsory, and arithmetic, geography and elementary science are taught. Teaching has now become a respectable profession, and young ladies, after passing the normal examinations, elect to become tresses in distant parts of the empire. Those who are in a position to prosecute their studies to the higher standard learn the French, English and German languages, which they speak fluently. In Constantinople there are 300 nurses at the present day.

The Presbyterian Standard tells us that the advocates of temperance are disappointed and grieved because the saloon men will not appeal from the decision of Judge Artman of Indiana—noted at length in the Dominion Presbyterian some time ago. They are now casting about for a case where a contrary opinion by another judge is delivered in order that they may appeal. The thing they want is a direct decision from the Supreme Court unmixed with any other issue setting for all time the unconstitutionality of saloon licenses. It is a noteworthy fact that the saloon people have bowed in acquiescence to the opinion of Judge Artman. It may be taken for granted that this course was not resolved upon until lawyers had been consulted. Saloon licenses, low and high, are doomed, says our contemporary.

Sir Wm. Ramsay, of Aberdeen University, has made special researches in Asia Minor. In a recent lecture the Belfast Witness reports him as saying that when the careful and thorough exploration of Asia Minor was begun, the Book of Acts was the most suspected and discredited Book in the New Testament. Many of the leading scholars had abandoned it, and it was condemned as being made in the second century. The case was now altered. The attitude taken now in regard to the historical credibility of St. Luke had undergone considerable change, as compared with the attitude taken twenty years ago. The reason for the change was that people had begun to study minutely the country in which the story of the second part of the Acts of the Apostles was laid—namely, Asia Minor. It had become clear, and was now free from denial, that the Book of the Acts belonged to the first century. It was now an accepted principle that writing was used familiarly and commonly thousands of years before Christ. That had been proved by the finding of actual documents.