

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 per Annum.

BELLEVILLE, MONTREAL, TORONTO.

Single Copies, 5 Cents

Note and Comment

Bull fighting has made such progress in France that there is a paper in Paris published in the interests of the "spart."

Mr. Ira D. Sankey was greatly affected at the death of Mr. Moody. "I can," he said "apply Professor Drummond's remark, 'D. L. Moody was the greatest human being I ever met.'"

Prof. Max Muller, corpus professor of comparative philology at Oxford, who was supposed to be recovering from a long illness, has suffered a relapse and his condition is causing great anxiety.

Several names are mentioned for the moderatorship of the U. P. Synod; but that of Dr. Mair, of Morningside, is most persistently named. It is said that Dr. Laws is inclined to refuse nomination.

The German financiers are said to be opposed to lending Russia money. One of the reasons for the Russia-Franco alliance on the part of Russia was the development of a friendship which enabled Russia to borrow the hoarded savings of France.

Kipling has made up his mind to go to South Africa. His motive is to be "in at the death." He is an intimate friend of Cecil Rhodes and wishes to meet him immediately after the relief of Kimberley. He will also gather good literary material.

Scotland's oldest minister, Dr. Nixon Montrose, died on Jan. 25 at the age of 97. Dr. Montrose was a distinguished clergyman of the Free Church, of the General Assembly of which body he was moderator in 1838. In his youth Dr. Montrose was a great ecclesiastical polemicist.

The Rev. Dr. Stewart, retiring Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland, has safely reached South Africa, and will soon resume his duties as Principal of the College at Lovedale. Before leaving, fifteen friends united in presenting him with gifts amounting to £1,760 towards his educational and other work.

The insistence of the French has compelled the Chinese to accede to their demands. The victory of the province of Kwang Tung has been deposited and Li Hung Chang appointed in his place. The prefect who attacked the French is to be decapitated, and 200,000 taels are to be paid the families of Frenchmen who were killed. The demands for more territory are to be acceded to. The French leaders in Tonquin are much elated, and they urge that now is the time for France to extend her sphere of influence over Kwang Tung, Kwang Si, Yunnan and half of Sze Chuen.

The experiment of a Christian daily paper is to have a trial. The Topeka Capital is to be run for one week, beginning March 13, under the full control of Rev. Charles M. Sheldon, author of "In His Steps." News, editorial and advertising are to be fully under his direction, and he will have opportunity of showing what his idea of a newspaper conducted on Christian principles is. Conditions will be favorable for the experiment in Topeka, as there and throughout the state the elements that will appreciate such a paper are large. With the general opposition to decided Christian views shown by most papers, the way is open for some paper to take a positive Christian stand and secure a large patronage.

President Kruger's views on alcohol are not likely to win for him the good opinion of the temperance party either in this country or elsewhere. He regards strong drink as one of the blessings of life and has consistently promoted its sale in the Republic. According to a leader of the teetotal movement at the Cape, he once opened a distillery with "prayer and praise."

According to the New York Sun, Bibles are in large demand just now. What the real cause is the dealers and circulators of the Bible do not know. Whether the criticism of the book has stimulated study of it no one seems able to tell. That the increased demand is wholly for teachers' Bibles or Bibles with special comments, references, illustrations and maps, would indicate a desire for more intelligent and systematic study of it on the part of those who already have plain Bibles.

Philosophies rise and fall, says the Herald and Presbyter. Evolution is now at high tide. Many evolutionists question whether it is not higher than the normal level of truth. Professor Goette, the Strasburg zoologist, at his inauguration as rector of the university, publicly discarded Darwin's theory, and declared his acceptance of the theory of Weissman, who accounts for the development of species not by the "struggle for existence," but by something implanted in the germ itself. He said: "The struggle for existence does not account for talents, because existence does not depend on them." He added that the principle of "natural selection" or "the survival of the fittest" has been discarded by many of the younger scientific investigators.

"The British Weekly," contrasting the Archbishop of Canterbury with Rev. A. Connell as they appeared before the recent International Missionary Conference in London, says: "The contrast, in appearance and matter, between the two speakers was noteworthy to a degree. The Archbishop stood before us a motionless, massive figure, his great head and strong face revealing in every line the man of action. Mr. Connell, tall and lithe, moving constantly as he spoke, looking half round, now to the right now to the left, gave us the language of the thinker. The listeners left no doubt as to which address they preferred. They found the weighty words of the man whose syllable was the fruit of action rather commonplace; they fell captive at once and gladly to the impassioned appeal of the thinker. It would be a pleasure to learn how the ministers on the platform, like Dr. Dykes, whose solemn and searching prayer closed the meeting, appraised the two addresses."

The Paris Exposition is only a few months away and orders for transportation are pouring into the steamship companies in great volume. If the war in South Africa is not terminated within a very short time, it will seriously affect the passenger capacity of several of the principal lines and the result will be that the facilities for trans-Atlantic travel will be totally inadequate to the demand which will be made upon it. The approximate monthly capacity of eight principal lines running to New York is 23,200. This amount would be larger if so many boats had not been taken away for use as transports. The Cunard line now has six of its steamers in the service, and the White Star line has three. One line has arranged with a large number of Paris hotels for special rates and will sell tickets at the New York office, including transportation to and from Paris, hotel expenses and admission to the grounds. The extra price will be about \$80 per week, which includes an adequate number of admissions to the Exposition.

There has been a gradual falling-off in the number of students at Princeton Theological Seminary preparing for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church. The total number in 1896 was 523; in 1897, 105; and in 1899, 106. The attention of the Church was called to the decrease in students at the last General Assembly.

The expedition of Baron Toll, organized for the exploration of the New Siberia Islands and Sannikoff Land, will set out in June next for a Norwegian port, whence it will proceed to the mouth of the Lena, on the banks of which, at a point above the town of Yakutsk, it will pass the winter. During the summer of 1901 the expedition will begin its explorations toward the north, picking up en route a detachment which will be sent forward from the main body during March, with a sufficient supply of dogs.

The late Sir Richard Burton was the master of twenty-seven languages. In his life, recently written by his widow, we are told of the method he used in making these acquisitions, one of his own invention. "I got a simple grammar and vocabulary, marked out the forms and words which I knew were absolutely necessary, and learned them by heart, by carrying them in my pocket and looking over them at spare moments during the day. I never worked more than a quarter of an hour at a time, for after that the brain lost its freshness. After learning some three hundred words, easily done in a week, I stumbled through some easy bookwork (one of the Gospels is the most comfortable) and underlined every word I wished to recollect, in order to read over my pencillings at least once a day. Having finished my volume, I then carefully worked up the grammar minutiae. . . . The care of the language was now broken, and progress was rapid." In this way, this remarkable scholar was able without help to learn a new language in two months.

The Chicago Evening Post has discovered, says an exchange, that Ruliyard Kipling wrote "David Harum," and that the author's name Westcott was only a nom de plume, suggested by a very loud blue waistcoat which Kipling wore when he promised Julian Hawthorne, Edward Bok, and F. N. Doubleday at dinner that he would see if he could not fool the public with a book by an unknown author. The Evening Post's story goes on to say, "to the credit of Mr. Kipling, that when the existence of a real E. N. Westcott was made known to him he caused all royalties received from the sales of the book to be paid to him, his heirs or assignees." Of course it was long ago settled that Bacon wrote Shakespeare's plays, and that some unknown author wrote Moses' books for him, and another unknown author wrote Isaiah's prophecies for him. Now if some one will explain that Aginaldo wrote the Emancipation for President Lincoln, and a U. of M. freshman wrote President McKinley's last message, we shall begin to think that "it is better not to know so many things than to know so many things that are not so."

The Presbyterian Witness, of Halifax, says: Rev. J. G. Shearer, of Erskine Church, Hamilton, Ontario is appointed Field Secretary for the Lord's Day Alliance in Ontario. The position is a very important one, and the creation of the office and the fact of filling it by such a man as Mr. Shearer, will convince the people of Ontario that the friends of the Sabbath are in downright earnest. The results of Mr. Shearer's appointment will be watched with interest in other provinces. Mr. Shearer is eminently fitted for the office to which he has been called; and from all quarters we hear of renewed activity and deepened interest in the work on account of his appointment.