

Dominion Presbyterian

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NOTE AND COMMENT

A contemporary states that the Southern Presbyterian Church stands second only to the Methodists in the proportion of missionary gifts per member. The increase in its offerings last year was about 27 per cent.

Concerning a good deal of the preaching and teaching today, John McNeill has said, "It is too dainty, too fine, too altogether nice, and all the time men are lost and in danger of future torment."

It is stated that nearly 3,000 lives have been saved by help summoned to vessels in distress by wireless telegraphy. The system has been so generally adopted by Atlantic-going steamers that one ship can nearly always speak to one or more ships.

The Presbyterian churches of Scotland have recently lost within one month three of their most prominent ministers. Dr. Marcus Dods, of New College, Edinburgh; Principal Marshall Lang, of Aberdeen University, and Dr. Archibald Scott, of St. George's Church, Edinburgh.

One of the greatest needs of the temperance cause to-day is accurate and up-to-date information concerning all that is being done to help and hinder the progress of that cause. This information may be had in concise form, and at very moderate cost, by subscribing for *The Pioneer*, published weekly at Toronto.

Archibald S. Hurd, who is generally recognized as a naval expert, is the author of an article on "The Balance of Naval Power and the Triple Alliance," which *The Living Age* for July 17 reprints from *The Nineteenth Century*. It is a calm and thoughtful discussion of what is at present a burning question in European and especially in English politics.

Says Gipsy Smith: Another fruit of my experience is that an evangelist should aim at simplicity and directness—simplicity of illustration and directness of appeal. For my own illustrations I draw constantly upon my gipsy lore, from the birds and the trees and the fields—the great world of Nature, which most people understand and all people love.

When Great Britain drew up its "War-head" in battle array at Portsmouth, England, to be witnessed by the Imperial Press Conference assembled there, the battleships, cruisers, submarines, destroyers, etc., placed end to end would have made a line 36 miles in length. These 144 ships are always fully manned and ready for instant action, and represent an outlay of \$450,000,000.

A Methodist pastor who had sent in 146 subscriptions, all paid, to his church paper, explains how it was done: "No laymen have helped me in my canvass; I simply go after all I get. No announcement from the pulpit will do it. Let the pastor go after them and he will get them." This accounts for the comparatively immense circulation attained by the various periodicals of the Methodist church. The pastors regard it as highly important that every family shall be supplied with the literature of their own church. They believe that in no other way can the rank and file of their membership become enlisted and enthusiastically devoted to the work of their denomination. We sometimes wish that our Presbyterian ministers could be induced to see the matter in the same light. A few do and help greatly the circulation of Presbyterian papers.

Rider Haggard, the author of "She" proposes incarceration for the habitual drunkard, whether their own consent or that of their family were obtained or not. This is all very good so far as it goes. It is probably the best thing for the man who has lost all self-control through the use of alcohol. But what does Mr. Haggard propose to do with the man whose business it is to make drunkards? Would he put him in jail, or give him a license to go on in his deadly work?

It is gratifying to be assured on most excellent authority, from one who knows from experience, that the absence of the "canteen" has militated towards the good order that has prevailed this year in the Volunteer Camps. A correspondent from one of the camps says in a note to us: "From what I have heard of Volunteer Camps, I am astonished at the good order that prevails. There seems to be a consensus of opinion that this is the result of the absence of a 'Canteen.'"

The new Parliament Buildings in Edmonton have been begun. Surely no such buildings ever had a more commanding site. They will overlook, on the slope below them, the old Hudson's Bay Company's buildings, constructed something less than one hundred years ago, and still kept in excellent repair, with the mighty Saskatchewan flowing at the foot, and its well-wooded bank on the opposite side. A more ideal site could not be imagined, remarks the *Christian Guardian*.

A careless automobilist in the United States who ran down and killed a boy has been sentenced to Sing Sing prison for an indefinite term—not less than seven years and not more than twenty. Motions for a new trial and arrest of judgment were overruled. The man, after knocking the boy down, speeded on without stopping. A few such examples will have a beneficial effect. A fine is not a deterrent with some people, while a prison sentence is. Human life is too precious to be recklessly endangered or destroyed.

The Canadian Churchman states that Bishop Gore, of Birmingham, probably the greatest intellectual force on the English bench to-day, who is nothing if not original and independent, has startled his conferees and the church generally, by expressing himself as not opposed to disestablishment. "The Bishop, however, does not feel called upon to take active part in any agitation in its favor. Even this qualified acceptance of the principle of disestablishment, on the part of a Bishop of the 'established church' is a very remarkable occurrence, and as far as we can remember quite unprecedented."

Great Britain and Russia would have a difficult task in Persia even if Russia had no ulterior designs on the country. The Shah, by abolishing the constitution granted by his father, caused a rebellion. To permit it to proceed means the sack of towns, and, perhaps of Teheran, and horrors indescribable. To support the Shah means the crushing of modern progress and the establishment of one of the worst rulers of modern times. The proper course to aid the revolutionists, help to depose the Shah, and appoint a successor under the constitution, they could not bring themselves to undertake. Hence, they are permitting Russian troops to occupy.

Mr. John Conners, president of the Baldwin locomotive works, Philadelphia, told the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at Denver, that

the church had been altogether too dignified to go out after the sinner, and had been content to wait for the sinner to enter her courts, and he urged a change of method. Possibly his remark hit there are not many Canadian churches which are waiting for men to come and be saved, and they are not coming. If men are worth saving they are worth seeking, and probably the only way to find them is by seeking. This certainly was the Master's method.

"He died for me." No record could be more meaningful, no story could be more pathetic, no plea could be more moving, no sacrifice could be more efficacious, no hope could be more full of promise. If Jesus died for us, then Christ lives in us. Sacrifice means sustentation of all the most valuable powers of the soul; substitution, taking the load of guilt from the sinner's back, puts the song of hope and rejoicing in the sinner's heart. Let us repose faith in a substituted Christ, and, whatever knowledge we gain, or whatever teaching we hear, see to it that we are not turned aside to "another gospel," or persuaded, by any false teachers, to place our trust in a shallow sentiment, instead of in a vicarious atonement.

A growing problem is presented to ministers and churches respecting the evening service. Apart from rural districts, most churches maintain an evening service, though that service is neither in attendance nor in results what many could wish it to be. The evening service, generally speaking, is the one attended by those who are not in the kingdom or who have no church affiliation. We can understand, therefore, how crippled a pastor feels when he misses from the evening service the members of the church, whose absence from the service may discount its value and the value of the preacher's message in the eyes of the unconverted. Where some people attend morning service and the afternoon Sunday School, it seems a large demand to expect them to be present at the evening service; but, nevertheless there are circumstances where success may be expected in a large degree only when the evening service, as well as the others, has their presence and support.

The recent murder of a young woman by a Chinaman leads the *New York Times* to urge that "men, and not women," should teach the Chinese. It defends the mission Sunday schools, which on the whole have a beneficial influence. It points out that there is a certain degree of delusion in most missionary work, and it is often difficult to convince an otherwise sensible male missionary that one of his supposed converts is a rank impostor. The women are frequently induced to take up missionary work of this kind by sentiment. The *N. Y. Christian Advocate*, an ably conducted Methodist journal, commenting on the subject, says: "We admit that several women have become infatuated with certain Chinamen, and a few with other Orientals, but the aggregate number is small. Without going to the extreme of forbidding women to teach such missionary schools, it is certain that very young women should not be employed, that the teaching should not be done in a corner, and that the superintendents of all such teachers should be awake to the possibilities of disaster. We are not aware of serious difficulty or scandal existing among our own missionaries in China and other non-Christian Oriental countries, on in this country."