

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

The government of the British East African protectorate has prohibited any person experimenting with wireless telegraphy without a license from the government.

The August meteors, according to a leading astronomer, form a stream so broad that the earth, though it travels faster than 18 miles a second, takes seven weeks to cross it.

A conservative estimate places the water power of the Dominion at 25,632,907 horsepower. Converted into coal on a basis of five pounds of coal per hour per horsepower, this means 551,137,540 tons of coal per annum.

Asked what would happen if England should withdraw from India, a highly educated Indian announced, "Go into a Zoological Garden, open the gates and let out all the lions, tigers and hyenas and you would see what would happen."

After more than fifty years in Manchester, Dr. Alexander MacLaren is returning to his native Scotland. He will make his home in Edinburgh. For a year or two he has found the Manchester climate rather trying to his health.

The bakers of Montreal and Quebec are seeking provincial legislation to permit a certain amount of work in bake-shops on the Lord's Day. This is a result of the recent cases in Quebec, when several bakers were found guilty under the Sunday Observance Act.

Certain persons were trying to foment trouble because Mazzoni and Rossoni, two consulting physicians of the Pope, are atheists. The Pope disposed of the difficulty by saying, "Science does not demand at what altar you worship." That is an aphorism not to be forgotten. For all that, other things being equal, says the N. Y. Christian Advocate, a Christian physician has some decided advantage in treating Christian patients.

Under the settlement reached between the Governments of Holland and Venezuela in the matter of the disputes between the two countries, the latter agrees to give the same fiscal treatment to the islands of the Dutch Antilles as is accorded the West Indian Islands, and to pay the sum of \$4,000 damages on account of Dutch vessels captured in the spring of 1908. The Netherlands engage to prohibit the importation of arms into Venezuela and to return the captured Venezuelan coastguard vessels.

Says the Lutheran Observer: We read not long ago a newspaper report of a revival in a southern city at which prayer was offered that God would send a tornado or earthquake, or some other physical calamity to the city which should waken the people to a sense of sin and need. It happened that during the progress of the meeting such a storm did occur, in which six persons were killed, twenty-three injured, and three hundred made homeless. The evangelist in charge of the meetings, on hearing of the calamity, was reported as giving thanks that God had answered his prayer! It sounds almost inconceivable, and yet it came in the regular course of news. There is less mercy with men than with God! Judgment and punishment may safely be left with the Lord.

With regard to an assertion that revival services do not accomplish permanent good, Gypsy Smith is reported as saying: "Since I have been in the United States this time I have met twenty men, converted at my meetings, who are now ministers. I have met many other persons who are active church members. It is true there are some who will stray away after the first effort. But those who remain true are more than worth the effort."

Prohibition does prohibit, says the Herald and Presbyterian. The United States Government is looking about for some source of revenue to replace the decreasing tax on liquors. From June, 1907, to June, 1908, internal revenue collections fell off about \$18,000,000. Since June, 1908, the decrease has doubled. There will be by next June a deficit of probably \$30,000,000 in the internal revenue receipts. But this will be counterbalanced in time by decreased cost of punishing criminals.

"Changes in China are affecting every department of life. Within eleven years, 3,500 miles of railway have been built, 1,600 miles in course of construction, and 4,000 miles are projected. Within the same period telegraph lines have been extended to all the provinces. A few years ago there were no modern post offices, now there are over 2,500 and the number is rapidly increasing. Ten years ago there was only one daily paper in Peking, and that an official one; now there ten dailies in the same city, one of which is a woman's paper. Printing presses are numerous but they are not able to supply the demand for translations of Western works."

Father Tyrrell, a liberal Roman Catholic priest of England, by issuing a clear-cut, emphatic protest against the recent encyclical of the Pope against "modernism," has stamped himself a Christian hero of the Reformation type. Nor is he going to recant. Being warned of the danger of his being excommunicated, he replies: "If my fault consists in having protested publicly in the name of Catholicism against a document which which destroys the only possible defense of Catholicism, I am absolutely and definitely unrepentant. The English papers say that, in all probability, excommunication will be the windup of the affair; and the editors say that they do not believe that there is any room for individual formulation of doctrine within the Roman Catholic Church."

Scotch fishermen do not go to sea on Sunday to fish, but the English fisherman goes regularly, excepting about fifteen per cent. of them, and a remarkable thing is that the Scotchmen nearly all own their boats, nets, and in many cases their homes. Many homes are mortgaged more or less, but they hold these in their own names, just as a farmer in Canada holds his farm, although it may not be entirely free from encumbrance. Every Scotch fisherman owns a part of the outfit on each craft. The English fisherman, with a rare exception, though he goes to sea every day in the week, never has boat, net or home to his name. These are owned by capitalists. Not ten in one hundred have anything beyond a few household goods. It is a standing object lesson, looking from the financial side alone, says Church Life, as to whether it pays an industry, country, or individual, to obey the divine command to rest one day in seven.

While at Biarritz, King Edward received a telegram from Lieutenant Shackleton informing him of the work accomplished in the Southern Seas and of the great dash for the Pole. The King immediately telegraphed in reply:—"I congratulate you and your comrades most warmly on the splendid result accomplished by your expedition, and on having succeeded in hoisting the Union Jack at the South Magnetic Pole. I gladly consent to the newly discovered range of mountains in the far south bearing the name of Queen Alexandra."

Montreal Witness: It is well worth noting that our Sunday law in Canada does not in the least interfere with pleasure or recreation on the Day of Rest. It only endeavors to keep one day of the seven clear of the mad scramble for money, and if—as some wish—its bars were once let down the workman would find himself in a sorry position. The labor unions are aware of this and even some of their spokesmen who care nothing for the religious aspect of the Sabbath are strong upholders of the institution from the humanitarian and economic standpoint.

The deplorable folly of the French Government in the great island of Madagascar, remarks the Presbyterian Witness, is anew illustrated in an order issued forbidding free religious services at funerals. Christians may offer prayer at the grave, but on the part of the public there must be no singing and no repetition of prayer. There must be no address at the grave unless the words of the address are submitted to the authorities, and approved by them. Christian education is crushed out. There is no recognition of liberty anywhere in the great island where prior to the coming in of the French there was a peaceful, free and progressive Christianity. When France can learn the laws of liberty who can tell.

The following interesting item is from the Chicago Interior: That eminent archaeologist, Sir Rendel Harris, announces the discovery of a Christian psalm book, dating perhaps from some part of the first Christian century. It is a Syrian manuscript which had lain for some years on his shelf awaiting decipherment. January 4, 1909, Dr. Harris took the manuscript in hand supposing it to be a Syrian version of the psalms of David, but discovered it to be a volume of Judaeo-Christian psalms or odes of praise to God for His grace in salvation. The compositions are sixty in number. The last eighteen of them are wholly Jewish and have been known to Oriental scholars, but the rest are of a different nature and origin. While molded upon the form of the psalms of David, they contain many plainly Christian references to salvation through Christ. While the manuscript itself is of comparatively recent date, the psalms contain the original of lines quoted by the earliest Christian writers, and Dr. Harris places the date of composition close to the fall of Jerusalem—say A.D. 70. Their original home appears to have been some Palestinian church. There is no literary connection between the Christian and the Jewish psalms which are brought together in the book, the collection being made by some unknown collector who evidently admired both. While we have as yet no translation of these psalms, the discoverer, who stands in the front rank of Orientalists, says that they "are warm with the fires of spiritual life."