

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

Eighty-three new members joined the second Presbyterian church Pittsburg, Pa., on a recent Sabbath, making 216 publicly received since the beginning of the year, and 1,289 received during the five years ministry of the present pastor, Rev. S. S. Young.

The foreign mission committee, eastern section closed the year with a deficit of \$12,000. Efforts are to be made to at once remove the debt. Rev. Dr. Grant, of Trinidad, is asked to take his furlough this year and take part in the campaign for removing the debt.

When the people of any community enjoy a prohibitory liquor law, either by direct legislative enactment, or by local option, and desire to have that law enforced, all that they have to do is to secure the appointment of officers who will make it their business to render the law effective and then back them up in their work. Under such conditions the liquor saloons will soon disappear. If the people show that they are in earnest prohibition will prohibit.

The London Missionary Society has just received the last sum which wipes out a deficit of £63,000 and frees the enterprise from anxiety on that score. The L. M. S. has a noble history. It is identified with the evangelisation of the Pacific Islands, with the great work of William Ellis in Madagascar, Livingstone and Moffat in Africa, and other glorious achievements. It would have been a sore evil if this deficit of £63,000 had remained to embarrass and paralyse. Who says religion is dead or dying, or that Evangelical sentiment is feeble and feckless?

Rev. Dr. Pollok, Principal of the Presbyterian College, Halifax, who has been in the ministry over fifty years—during 28 years of which he occupied the chair of history in the college—has tendered his resignation of the Principalship. He has, however, consented to retain the position for one year. This will afford the senate of the College opportunity of making a selection of successor. Dr. Pollok succeeded the late Dr. McKnight in the Principalship eleven years ago. He is a model Principal and a very able theologian.

Pope Leo wrote a poem or prayer for the anniversary of his ninety-third birthday, and the completion of the twenty-fifth year of his pontificate. It contains the following: "That I may see thy face, Heaven's Queen, whose mother-love has brought me home above." The Christian Observer comments on the incident in the following fashion: "The Moslem and the Romanist alike worship the God of Abraham. They both differ from the Protestant in that neither recognizes the Lord Jesus as the one only mediator between God and man. The Moslem trusts for salvation to Mohammed; the Romanist to the Virgin Mary, 'Heaven's Queen, whose mother-love has brought me home above.'" Wherein has the hope of the one any better foundation than the other?"

The discovery that radium gives off heat without combustion or deterioration modifies all preconceived ideas as to the production of heat or other forms of energy. Heat without decomposition has been regarded as a chemical impossibility, as perpetual motion is mechanically impossible.

Rev. T. T. Mutchler, Secretary of the Philadelphia Sabbath Association, says the Christian Observer, makes report that in the city of Philadelphia, four years ago, there were about 22,000 places of business open on Sunday. Of 2,200 barber shops, all but about a hundred were doing business on Sunday. About that time many of the journeymen barbers applied to the Sabbath Association for aid. They have succeeded in closing nearly two thousand of the barber shops on that day, and the influence of the movement has spread throughout the whole State of Pennsylvania till forty-seven "unions" stand pledged for Sunday closing. A large part of the six thousand candy and cigar stores in Philadelphia (about one half) have ceased from Sunday business. This example from Philadelphia may serve to encourage the like effort elsewhere in Canadian cities, for instance, if barbers are compelled to work on Sundays.

The National Advocate is authority for the statement that the only railroad in the world along whose route liquor cannot be sold is the St. Louis, Watkins and Gulf Railroad, from Lake Charles to Alexandria, La., a distance of one hundred miles. The builder of the road bought and incorporated all the town sites along the line, and the deeds for all lots contain a stringent anti-liquor clause voiding the sale and deed if the manufacture or sale of liquor is made on the premises, the purchaser forfeiting the money he may have made on the property. There has been only one violation of this provision of the deed in thirteen years. The railway company demanded the property from a lot owner who had violated his provisions and the judge who tried the case decided in favor of the company, and his decision has been sustained by the appeal court of Louisiana.

A London newspaper suggests the defective ventilation of churches is to a considerable degree contributory to the spread of consumption and other zymotic diseases. An inspection of several churches in the city on Easter Sunday showed that in a great number the air was the reverse of healthy, that in more than one edifice ladies had fainted, that in others not a window was open that ventilators were conspicuous by their absence, and that where heating apparatus was in full working order. The Belfast Witness suggests and we agree with the suggestion—that it is quite possible that such a condition of affairs is not confined to London, and that consequences of the most serious character to health ensue therefrom. There is no doubt that greater attention should be paid to the proper ventilation of buildings of all kinds, and particularly of churches. Perhaps in the majority of cases, the drowsiness which sometimes overcomes worshippers in churches is due mainly to bad ventilation.

A Revolt of Women Students at the University of St. Petersburg occurred lately. As a result, 317 were reprimanded and twenty-three others severely punished. Sixty male students who protested against the severity of the punishment given the women, were expelled. The occasion of the revolt was new and stringent examination rules.

The Belfast Witness notes that a committee of prominent Congregationalists has just formulated important suggestions for a reconstruction of the Congregational system. The essential feature of that system is that every congregation is a complete church, self-governed and capable of all and every Church function. From the beginning a Synod or Assembly was recognised, and certain elements of ecclesiastical life were referred to a general Synod as better adapted for their management and control. In course of time it would appear the congregation grew more and more independent, and the power of the Synod dwindled, until it became practically atrophied. The inconveniences have been felt so keenly that a reformation is demanded which some of the denomination consider a revolution. The suggestions now made do not recognise Dr. Parker's ideal, a "United Congregational Church," which would be a near approach to Presbytery; but they are nevertheless changes in the Presbyterian direction. The congregation is still to be self-contained, but not independent and isolated from other congregations.

A post-graduate Yale student who has been studying the question of lynchings in the United States during the past 21 years, makes some interesting revelations. During 1872 negroes have been lynched, an average of 89½ a year, and 1,256 whites, an average of 59 a year. Sixty-one of the lynched were women, of whom 38 were negroes and 23 were white. The crime for which negroes were lynched was rape in only 35 per cent of the cases. In the same period 108 white men were executed for that offence. That 61 women should have been the victims of "Judge Lynch" is startling, for as the New York Sun points out, people seldom hear of the legal execution. Of the death sentence on a woman in the United States it may almost be said that the law has ceased to take the life of a woman. The same paper says the investigation demonstrates two things of great importance; that there are comparatively few lynchings in States where murderers are promptly tried, convicted and sentenced, and that since 1892 the number of lynchings shows a steady decrease. The inference is clear: when the criminal laws in that country are as promptly and impartially enforced as they are in Great Britain and Canada "Judge Lynch's" occupation will be gone. The Sun says: "There is one law which will accomplish the object effectually, we are inclined to think. It makes the county responsible in damages to the family of the victim. In Ohio the other day the family of a lynched negro recovered \$5,000 in a suit brought under the statute."