

Dominion Presbyterian

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Missionaries have translated the Bible into no less than 101 languages; the New Testament into 127, and parts of the Bible into 254 languages.

The British authorities in Egypt had to assert themselves firmly of late in face of a conspiracy of Turks and Mohammedan Egyptians.

The Presbyterian Church in India is represented by a General Assembly, six Synods, twenty Presbyteries, 29,000 members. Preaching is done in more than ten different languages.

Captain Bernier is going North to the Arctic regions again, in the Arctic steamer. Due care will doubtless be taken that the expedition shall be wisely conducted.

Mr. George A. Chase, English master at the Jarvis Street Collegiate Institute, Toronto, was recently presented with an address and a fund of several hundred dollars, to found an annual prize in his name.

The congregation of St. David's church, Dundee, will apply to the General Assembly for permission to sell the building for \$3,650. There are twelve United Free churches within five minutes' walk of it.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson died a few days ago full of years, and with a life of useful labor behind him. He was in Parliament some twenty-five years and his great concern was to promote the sobriety of the people.

Professor J. G. McKendrick, who is retiring from the Chair of Physiology in Glasgow University, delivered his valedictory address to his students on the 26th ult. His address was devoted to a review of the progress of the science of physiology during the last thirty years.

The Egypt General Mission of the Irish Presbyterian church, which was started ten years ago by seven young Baptist emigrants, now numbers 40 workers, who control 9 schools, 5 book depositories and 2 medical stations, and return an income of \$14,345.

St. Catharines Star-Journal:—Of Canada it must be as true as it was of Israel, that the Law is its life. The future of this country—if it is to be a vital future—must rest in the hands of those who know the Scriptures, and whose joy it is to fulfil their teachings.

Abyssinia has at last been opened to missionary effort. A converted Galla, returning home, entered the Capital, and was introduced to King Menelek by the Coptic Archbishop. The king received him kindly. The Swedish missionaries are preparing a Christian literature for the Gallas.

The annual reports of the United Free Church of Scotland show an increase of 1,500 members, making the whole number 504,801. The membership of the four Highland Synods, where the "Wee Frees" are in their greatest strength, has fallen off 216. The total income of the various funds has diminished to \$4,800,735 against \$5,130,625 previously reported. The Emergency Fund having received contributions of \$218,320, is now \$749,275. The committee of the Sustentation Fund have been able to pay the full usual dividend to ministers.

Next year is the centenary of Protestant missions in China. Robert Morrison arrived in China in 1807, and in 1842 five treaty ports were opened, and in 1876 privilege was granted foreigners to travel in China. Wonderful progress and the day of Christianity's triumph is at hand.

Geographers of the principal nations are now engaged in preparing a great world map on a scale of 1 to 1,000,000. It will consist of 437 sheets. One mile will be represented by about one-sixteenth of an inch. Many districts have been mapped on a much larger scale, but to prepare maps of the entire world on this scale is a gigantic undertaking.

This year's Handel Festival—the fifteenth of a triennial series—was opened on the 26th ult. in the Crystal Palace, Swedenham, England, by a performance of the "Messiah." While Dr. Cowen conducted, among the soloists were Madame Albani and Mr. Santley. It was calculated that the chorus numbered 4,000, and the audience 25,000 persons.

The "Parochial School a curse to the Church and a menace to the Nation" is the title of a book published by a Chicago priest. It is making some stir and the author is giving a course of lectures in a hall in Chicago. It is said that he is attracting immense audiences. He claims to belong still to the Roman Catholic church, and to be laboring for a reform of the church from within.

Thomas Carlyle, not long before his death, was in conversation with the late Dr. John Brown, and expressed himself to the following effect: "I am now an old man, and done with the world. Looking around me, before and behind, and weighing all as wisely as I can, it seems to me there is nothing solid to rest on but the faith which I learned in my old home and from mother's lips."

The Waldensian Church of Italy has now fifty-one pastors of churches, scattered from Venice to Palermo, with an equal number of teachers and helpers, making a total working force of 135 laborers. The membership of their church has reached 6,707 and their Sabbath schools are flourishing. These churches suffered great losses by emigration to America.

The Canadian Pacific railway has in hand the greatest irrigation scheme in the world. By the end of the next three years 1,500,000 acres of land in the vicinity of Calgary, Alberta, hitherto arid, will be divided into 20,000 farms, watered from Bow River. This irrigation plan, when completed, will be sixty per cent. larger than the next largest on the American Continent, which is in the Pecos Valley, Arizona.

At the General Conference of the Southern Methodist Church held at Birmingham, Ala., a new creed for the statement of beliefs common to all Methodist bodies was proposed. The proposition was approved to invite all Methodists throughout the world to join in a statement of the ecumenical faith of Methodism. The argument for restatement was that the "twenty-five articles of religion" and John Wesley's "Notes on the New Testament" and "Fifty-two Sermons," which constitute the present doctrinal standards of the American churches, are ill-balanced because they were written largely as polemics against the Roman Church, and are too complicated and diffuse for the understanding of laymen uneducated in theology.

Lord Kelvin entered his 83rd year on the 26th ult. It is almost impossible to realize the progress that practical science has made during the great scientist's lifetime. Lord Kelvin entered Glasgow University where his father was Professor of Mathematics in 1834 and when he was only seventeen he wrote a paper in defence of Fourier's formulae and Larmorian analysis. Since that time he has seen the telegraph, the telephone, the electric light, and all the modern wonders, become part of the ordinary life of man.

The newspapers have faithfully reported the doings of the Gaikwar of Baroda who is visiting this country accompanied—strange, but true—by the Maharani in her handsome native dress. That the Gaikwar's wife has come with him is accounted for by the very liberalized position which he has long assumed towards social and economic questions. After his return from the coronation of King Edward, the Gaikwar took off his wife's veil and, in spite of a fire of criticism from the people, she has not worn it since and a few high-placed Baroda ladies have ventured to follow her example. When the unchanging customs of India change before our eyes, Christian missionaries need not apologize or falter before any gates of brass.

"The wickedness of the Sabbath, the wickedness of the nation, and one of the things which is helping to make ours a wicked nation is the Sunday game nuisance." This quotation is from an American religious journal and of course applies first of all to our American neighbors. But it will also apply in no small measure to Canada. It would be a good thing if our people could take a sober second thought over the truthfulness of our quotation. It cannot be denied that wherever the Sabbath is most carefully observed we have the fewest commissions of crime. Sabbath-breaking by old or young is a potent promoter of law-breaking in many forms—the foster parent of many forms of immorality. The Christian people of Canada will make no mistake in safeguarding the Christian Sabbath.

Writing in the "Catholic Mirror," Father Cassilly, the well known Jesuit, declares that "one great source of backwardness in the Roman Catholic Church in this country is the willingness of so many young people to share in the higher education of their Protestant fellow-countrymen. No less than 2,000 of them, he says, are at present studying in State universities—the California, Michigan and Minnesota Universities have as many as 250 each. Father Cassilly recommends, as the best method of counteracting the drift, that there be established near the university grounds Roman Catholic chapels with resident priests. But Roman Catholic chapels with resident priests, says "Christian Work," will, we imagine, prove as inadequate and unsatisfactory substitutes for the scholarship and thorough instruction of our colleges and universities as the parochial schools have shown themselves powerless competitors for the instruction of Catholic youth; and the instruction is by no means the only advantage that our secular schools and colleges offer: the American Catholic prefers that his children should grow up with the advantages of social intercourse with Protestants. The advantages of this intercourse are many and great, and the Catholic parent is swift to perceive them, even if the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church in this country are not.