

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

"At last," says the New York Christian Intelligencer, "there seems some prospect that the Chinese Exclusion law, enacted under the clamor of "Sand Lots" agitators in California, and kept on the statute book at the behest of politicians, will be modified if not repealed. It may be that loss of trade will do what motives of Christian comity could not."

Dr. Wiley, of the United States Bureau of Chemistry, thinks the ordinary limit of human activity will soon be ninety instead of seventy years. The chief aids to such a result, he affirms, are heredity, temperance, work and play—in other words, a rational life. Of these necessary elements all except one—heredity—are, or should be, within the individual's control. Science is adding greatly to the span of life, and when its aid is supplemented properly by the individual centenarians will be so common as not to excite remark.

Referring to three fatal casualties in Detroit on a recent Sunday, the Michigan Presbyterian says: "it is an obvious fact that none of the dead or injured were on their way to church or observing the Sabbath as it should be observed. One was drowned while bathing, another while canoeing, and another while sailing. Nine were injured by a car coming in contact with their wagon, in which they were having a gay holiday time. People cannot escape some sort of injury, either morally or physically, when they so wantonly disregard the Lord's Day."

Under the caption of "The Green Peril" in France, the London Daily Telegraph quotes the statement of one of the anti-absinthe writers, that 133,000 hectolitres, or 2,926,000 gallons, in round numbers, of the stuff are annually absorbed by French people, men and women, for the women have also learned to like the green peril. Fifty years ago only 735 hectolitres of absinthe were consumed in France. The increase of lunacy is attributed to the deleterious drink. Sixty years ago there were only 10,000 registered lunatics, now there are 80,000. The increase in crime is also traced to the love of absinthe among the masses.

Rev. Dr. Wardrope, Guelph, the grand old man of the Presbyterian church in Canada, will on the 13th of August celebrate the diamond jubilee of his entrance into the ministry. It was August 13th, 1845, that he began his first pastorate in Daly street church, Ottawa, the congregation from which Knox and St. Paul's are both outgrowths. Dr. Wardrope remained in his Ottawa pastorate for twenty-four years, until 1869, when he accepted the call to Chalmers church, Guelph, from which charge he retired in 1892. He is now in his 87th year.

A German physician has investigated the conditions necessary for the absorption of drugs and finds that medicaments are absorbed most speedily when taken with plain water while fasting. Soup, milk, etc., retard absorption even when the medicine is taken fasting, but absorption is still more slow when the medicament is taken with liquid after food, and most slowly of all when taken after food in the absence of liquid. To secure the most speedy absorption of any drug, therefore, it should be administered with water on an empty stomach, and in many cases it will be found that a definite effect will thus be produced, though no effect would be perceptible if the same dose were administered shortly after food.

A commercial man who has just returned from Cape Breton, says he was much surprised to meet so many old men and old women and all of them enjoying excellent health and able to work. "But," he said, "a gentleman in North Sydney drove me out of town a few miles and I was introduced to the pioneer couple of that section. The old gentleman is 97 years of age, and his wife is 89 years of age if she lives till July 17th of this year. The old man was hoeing potatoes in the field, and the old lady was knitting and humming a Gaelic song. They are Presbyterians in their religious faith and walk to church over a mile.

In a speech to his peace plenipotentiaries at Tokio, before they left for Washington, the Emperor of Japan, after referring to the agency of President Roosevelt in bringing about a peace conference, said:—"We were compelled, contrary to our expectations, to resort to arms despite our constant abiding wish for peace, and if, in consequence of the conciliatory spirit of our opponent, hostilities could be brought to an end, nothing would be more satisfactory than such consummation. Accordingly we at once accept the suggestion of the President of the United States, and we hereby charge you with the mission of negotiating and concluding peace. You should devote yourselves with all your power to discharge your mission, and make every effort to secure the re-establishment of peace on a durable basis."

The New Hebrides Magazines says:—Epetoneto, of Aneityum, first native pastor of the New Hebrides (Presbyterian) Mission, died 13th March, after a lingering illness. He resigned the active duties of his office more than a year ago owing to age and weakness, but attended church when able, and dispensed the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in June, 1904. He accepted the gospel early in life, and for a number of years acted as teacher in different districts under Dr. Inglis and Mr. Lawrie. He was a man of superior intelligence, a true Christian and devoted to his Master's work. He was ordained as native pastor by the Synod in 1897. He was loyally received by the natives and his influence increased with his years. Though not in the line of high chiefs, he became gradually to be recognized as the principal person on the Island, and though short in stature, being little more than five feet, he attained a position of commanding influence. There is none now in the island fitted to take his place and he will be much missed. He was about 71 years of age.

The Belfast Witness gives a harrowing summary of the terrible massacre perpetrated in Odessa on June 27th under the direction and authority of the Russian bureaucracy for which for two months the authorities had been perfecting plans. Military and machine guns were fixed in positions commanding practically every outlet, so that the populace were literally confined in a death trap. Then the signal for the military massacre was given, and the reformers rushed hurriedly and helplessly to their doom. At least seven thousand men and women were struck dead during the ten hours during which the massacre raged. Hundreds of bodies were flung into the flames of burning buildings, and loads of human bones were carted for secret interment under the convoy of the soldiery. It is almost impossible to realise the occurrence of such barbaric doings, even under the system of the Czarism.

The New York Tribune says: "Andrew Carnegie will not have anything to do with any enterprise, however tempting financially, that has anything to do with the sale of intoxicating liquors."

Newfoundland has a larger revenue than ever before, an advance of \$330,000 on two years ago. The total revenue this year was \$2,069,000. The price of fish is good. The resources of the province are being well developed. Duties are being reduced, and a substantial cash reserve is formed.

Astronomers will soon be making their way from all parts of Europe and America to Spain, in order to witness the solar eclipse of the 29th of August, which will be total in parts of that country. The conditions are peculiarly favorable, the region being easily accessible, and the phenomenon is likely to be of greater scientific interest than usual, on account of the duration of the totality and the prevalence of sun spots of rare dimensions. There will not be so good a chance for European observers for many years to come.

The New Zealand Times, says the London Presbyterian, gives a vivid impression of the present ferment in New Zealand on the question of the Bible in schools. The churches are practically solid in demanding religious teaching, but the government refuses to have the question raised for the present. A vigorous sermon, by the Rev. Dr. Gibb, of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Wellington, is reported, putting the case for Bible teaching with great force.

The partiality of Rome for wealth and rank is manifest, says the Christian Standard, in concessions to princes and plutocrats with respect to marriage. A press despatch tells of the permission granted for the marriage of a rich Protestant and a Catholic in a Roman Catholic church. No such dispensation could have been granted a mechanic or a clerk, or any one who could not pay handsomely. While the Roman Catholic church is mainly made up of poor people, it is managed in the interests of wealth and rank. Romanism has been synonymous with the idolatrous worship of pomp and ceremony of titles and money.

Rev. A. E. Ayres, presiding elder of the Bombay District, Bombay Methodist Episcopal Conference, writes: "The outlook for the work in this part of India was never more hopeful than it is now. There is a great movement quietly working among the educated Hindus, which some day, when the national courage rises sufficiently, will result in a remarkable turning of the leaders of millions to our God and His Christ. In the meantime we are working upward through the depressed classes, and are getting ready a host of teachers and preachers to help us care for the general mass movement when it comes."

Urging the importance of evangelization, Dr. Dawson says: "A Christianity that does not evangelize has lost not only its right to live, but the very means of its existence. A revival is dependent upon the spirit of prayer. The prayer-meetings of the church must restore prayer to its dethroned place of pre-eminence. The minister of a parish must be his own evangelist and preach for a verdict. Christians must do personal work. The present faith of the church in the deeper spiritual and eternal verities is abiding, and it may accept the results of reverent scientific criticism with no diminution of its faith in Jesus Christ as a Saviour to the uttermost."