

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Taking the Dominion as a whole, out of every one hundred persons we meet, forty-one are Roman Catholics, seventeen are Methodists, sixteen Presbyterians, thirteen Episcopalians, six Baptists, three belonging to minor denominations, and there are four who were not able to tell the census enumerator what they were.

The venerable Dr. Cuyler does not hesitate to magnify his office as preacher. Speaking before a Methodist gathering, he is reported to have said: "Bear this in mind that no presidential chair, no emperor's throne, was ever yet built high enough to be within ten leagues of the pulpit in which the fearless preacher stands winning immortal souls to Jesus Christ."

A fire started early Saturday morning in the kitchen of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, in the top story of the administrative section. The nurses, who were sleeping directly below, all got out safely. The damage by fire was confined to the kitchen and the lower floors suffered considerably from water. None of the patients were hurt. The loss may amount to \$50,000, but whatever it is Lord Strathcona has cabled he will pay.

It is said that the continual emigration of Roman Catholics from Ireland has so depleted the Roman Catholic Church in the island as to alarm the priesthood, and has led to the organization of an Anti-emigration Society. It does not appear that the population, as a whole, is decreasing; those leaving the island are, for the most part, Catholics who can not get a living there, and their places are taken by others not committed to the Church.

In an address at Blackburn, Eng., Dr. Greenwood, medical officer of health, asserted that idleness caused more disease than overwork. Yet the latter was attended with injurious results. He questioned whether vigorous Saturday afternoon football played by men who had been sitting closely in the workshop or at the desk the whole week did as much good as it did harm. He considered it was too sudden and too great a strain on the body.

The Duke of Northumberland, who, since the appointment of Earl Grey to Canada as governor general, has become Lord-Lieutenant of the county from which he takes his title, and in which he owns nearly 200,000 acres, was for some seventeen years, as Lord Percy, Conservative member for North Northumberland, but has always been the student rather than the statesman, and even in those House of Commons days was more of an antiquarian than a politician. He is a peer of a deeply religious turn of mind.

The death is announced of Mr. Donald MacGregor, for fifty years proprietor of the Royal Hotel, Edinburgh. Mr. MacGregor who was 83 years of age, was well known to

the many thousands of literary men and tourists in general who visited his great hotel in Princess street. He claimed descent from Rob Roy, and took a leading part in the movement for the preservation of Rob Roy's grave.

The design of the Hector Macdonald memorial has been agreed on at last. A large number of architects competed for the honor of planning a memorial to the hero of Omdurman, and the successful one was Mr. James S. Kay, of Glasgow. He proposed a square tower in the Scottish baronial style, about 100 feet in height and surmounted by a turret at one corner, and a heavy balustrade round the rest of the top. Inside it will have four floors, with rooms which can be used as a museum and a staircase leading up to the top. The idea is in keeping with the soldierly character of the man, and when it is carried out Dingwall will have a memorial worthy of its hero. It will cost £2,000.

Bishop Bashford says that in Japan the missionaries are training the future leaders of the empire, as the prominent position of Christians in the cabinet, among the generals and in parliament already indicates. The bishop says further: "If Japan is not stranded through materialism, if she becomes a strong Christian nation, she is forordained to be the leader of the Orient in the twentieth century." Concerning opportunities he says: "I have never seen such providential openings as greet us in Japan. English and Americans were never so popular in Japan as they are to-day, and the appreciation of Western learning and Western civilization, and I think I might add of the Christian religion, was never so high as now.

Spanish legislators are becoming alarmed at the growing danger of nicotine poisoning through the use of tobacco, particularly in the form of cigarettes. The minister of the interior has presented a bill to the Courts, absolutely prohibiting the sale of tobacco, cigars or cigarettes to any person under seventeen years of age. The penalties vary from £2 to £20, with imprisonment in exceptionally bad cases. The measure is justified as imperative for the arrest of racial degeneration. Tuberculosis makes great ravages among Spanish laboring youths, who, for the most part, undernourished and already enfeebled by this and overwork, aggravate matters by spending much of their scanty wages in tobacco, generally cigarettes.

An apparently reliable report credits a man in Ireland with having pushed up a 14 pound dumb-bell 1,616 times without stopping at the rate of 125 times a minute. That was equivalent to lifting a weight of 22,000 pounds more than thirteen inches in thirteen minutes. It was a splendid exhibition of a very sad lack of wisdom; for doctors tell us that such feats cannot be performed without serious injury to the performer. The injury may not be felt for years, but it will no doubt be felt sooner or later. Sometime there will be a sudden collapse and people will be wondering why so strong a man should break down so suddenly. Or

some disease will lay hold of him and he will not have the strength to resist it. The Christian religion teaches us to be temperate—that is, moderate—in all things, and it is a rule that applies as much to gymnastic exercises as to anything else. Moderate gymnastic exercises increase vitality, immoderate efforts diminish it.

Recently The Catholic Record, of London, Ont., a strongly-edited and influential journal, replied to some criticism of its structures on the saloon-keeper. Under the heading "A Debasing Avocation," the editor tells his readers what he thinks of the drink dispenser, and in that expression of opinion we find the following sentences: "It is to our mind a pitiable and debasing avocation—the most repugnant to any one who wishes to add to the betterment of the world;" "Other fields of human activity call for ambition and self-development; in this nothing that can be coveted by any self-respecting citizen is necessary." "Let us inform the saloon-keeper that he is not by any means a potent personage in the community. He is regarded as a menace to its peace and happiness and religion, and it would do him a world of good to know how he is viewed by wives and daughters and fathers. If ever he had any influence that day is gone. Our leaders wish to see no Catholic name on the list of rum-sellers, and the right-thinking citizen would rather see his son in a coffin than in the business." These are strong and wholesome sentences.

Rev. N. J. Dawson since his return to England from the United States, has written his impressions of America and its educational system. He says—"A million emigrants landed in America last year. Many of them were Jews, Poles, Russians, Italians, and so forth. How is this heterogeneous multitude to be incorporated into American nationality? Through the children. The children are at once swept into the schools. They are soon speaking English and they go home to teach English to their parents. Very soon English becomes the language of their homes. And then, with the acquisition of English comes also the acquisition of those ideals of liberty and self-government which are embedded in our common literature. The common schools are the great force in the building up of American nationality, and therefore the American people wisely lavish on them their energy and treasure, that they may be the best equipped schools in the world." The Belfast Witness endorses his references to the public schools of the United States in the following vigorous terms: "That is so. What have we in Ireland? In three provinces and parts of the fourth, schools are manipulated in the interests of the Roman Church, while priests and Nationalist politicians insist on the children learning the Irish language, which can be of no use in their future business life, whether here or in America, to which so many of them emigrate. England and Ireland sorely need a useful commonsense system of efficient schools, such as America enjoys; where, Mr. Dawson says, there is no religious difficulty because if Romanists or Anglicans must have denominational schools of their own they must pay for them out of their own pockets."