

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Paris is preparing to celebrate the centennial of the birth of Victor Hugo with a brilliant programme of festivities, beginning on February 26, and continuing six days.

With 342,782 inhabitants San Francisco has 21,324 telephones. In other words, she has a telephone for every sixteen inhabitants. Boston comes next. She has 500,000 inhabitants and 23,780 telephones, or a telephone for every twenty-four inhabitants.

Mexico has the smallest navy in the world in proportion to her population. Twelve million people are protected by a fleet of two despatch vessels, two unarmoured gunboats, each carrying one 4 ton muzzle-loading gun and four small breech-loaders, and five second class torpedo-boats. This fleet is manned by 90 officers and 500 men.

Isaiah T. Montgomery, the wealthiest man in Mount Bayou, Miss., has the distinction of being the only colored mayor in the United States. His career has been one of unusual interest, as he was born a slave on the plantation of Jefferson Davis, in Mississippi. President Davis made him his body servant and taught him to read and write.

The venerable Rev. Dr. Theodore L. Cuyler has attained his eightieth birthday. Since his retirement from active pastoral work, Dr. Cuyler's activity has been if anything, greater than before. Whatever slight diminution there has been in his preaching, has been more than compensated by an increased activity in writing for the religious Press.

It was Voltaire who said: "There is no hope of destroying the Christian religion as long as Sunday is acknowledged and kept as a sacred day." Or, as a Scottish Presbyterian minister recently put it: "The Lord's Day and personal and national religion must stand or fall together." "There is food for thought for the Christ a people of Canada in these utterances.

"The question, 'What was the general character of Moses?' drew from one child in an American Sunday school the reply: 'A gentleman.' Not understanding, the inspector asked why. 'Please, sir, when the daughters of Jethro went to the well to draw water, the shepherds were in the way; but Moses helped them and said to the shepherds, 'Ladies first, please.'"

The Presbyterian Church is now preparing to make a forward movement all over England. In Yorkshire, where there are at present very few congregations of the denomination, a special effort is to be made. It is proposed to plant several new churches in the suburbs of Leeds, and one at least in every town of any considerable size in the country. Among those taking a prominent part in the movement are Sir George Bruce, Rev. James Christie of Carlisle, Moderator for the year of the Presbyterian Church of England, and Rev. Dr. Munro Gibson, an ex-president of the National Free Church Council.

The self-operating telephone is another case of the machine displacing human labor. Fifteen hundred girls are about to lose their positions in telephone offices in Chicago because the automatic system has been adopted for a portion of the city, and will soon be inaugurated. It is an electric device parallel to that by which facsimiles of handwriting and photographs of faces are sent through long distances.

There is danger in the golf links. The London, G. B., Presbyterian furnishes the interesting information—serious as well as interesting—that owing to having damaged one of his eyes badly on the golf links, Dr. Munro Gibson was unable to occupy his pulpit on a recent Sunday. The paper in question says he was then progressing favourably, but it is not certain yet whether or not the eyesight is injured, though the oculist's report is hopeful. Advice to be watchful at the golf links can hardly be regarded as jocular—in this case, at least.

The Belfast "Witness" has the following: Dr. Francis E. Clark, the founder and president of the C. E. societies, has arrived in Europe to spend some months in encouraging and developing the Christian Endeavour movement. He begins his work in Italy, and then proceeds to Sweden, Norway, and Denmark; afterwards he will visit Finland, Holland, and then South of France, Spain, and Portugal. He will find time in the course of his travels to be present at the great Endeavour meeting at Manchester, and may spend some weeks in meeting with Christian Endeavourers in various cities in Britain.

No less than 490 bull-fights, costing nearly \$5,000 each on an average, were fought in Spain from March to November, according to the *Staats Zeitung* (New York). That the number was not greater, it says, is due not to any diminution in Spanish love for the sport, but to the fact that it is an expensive amusement: "Some 3,000 bulls and more than 5,000 horses were killed in the ring this year. The value of these animals (chiefly the bulls, for the horses were old nags) exceeded \$50,000. The Duke of V. raga, the only living descendant of Columbus, is the largest breeder of bulls for the ring."

The Glasgow Christian Leader recently announced the death of a "Grand Old Man" of the Presbyterian church—Rev. W. D. Killen, D. D., president of the General Assembly's Theological College, in his 96th year. He was born in Ballymena County, Antrim, April 5, 1806, and thus lived in the reign of five sovereigns—George III., George IV., William IV., Victoria and Edward VII. His professional work dated from 1841. He was not only a preacher and a teacher, but also an author, who enriched the literature of his church and time by his published works. A few weeks before his death he bore testimony to progress in the Church and in the world in the following terms: "I am an old man now, but I am glad to say that I think the world and the church have greatly improved during my life time."

The American Sabbath Union, of New York, requests all Christian churches to observe the week following Easter in 1902,—the first week of April,—as a week of prayer for the preservation of the American Sabbath. The Presbyterian General Assembly for two years past has recommended the observance of such a week in April, and the Sabbath Union, therefore, count upon the sympathy of all Presbyterian pastors in their efforts to arouse the Christian conscience of the country to the dangers threatening this sacred institution. Why should not the Christian denominations of Canada inaugurate a similar campaign?

Says the Belfast Witness: The amazing activity of Protestant missions as compared with those which represent the Roman Church is attracting the attention of some Roman Catholics and causing anxiety if not alarm. A recent contributor to "The Vie Catholique" gives figures which show that the expenditure of the Protestant societies in three years and a few months equals the amount spent on Roman Catholic missions during three quarters of a century. The annual income of English missions alone is three times as great as that of the French Catholic missions, although the latter have more than four times as many agents. The Protestant propaganda is, therefore, far more energetic than that of Rome.

According to recent calculations there are about 1500 millions of human beings now living on the face of the earth. Of these 800 millions are dwellers in Asia, 320 millions inhabit Europe, more than 100 millions dwell in North and South America, and it is supposed that Africa contains over 200 millions—the rest belong to the islands scattered all over the globe. In regard to colour, black men and white men between them dispense of 800 millions, and 700 millions are made up of brown, yellow and red men. One-third of the human race wear clothes, but in spite of the looms of Lancashire, one-sixth wear nothing, and the rest are only partially clad. One third live in houses, nearly one-half dwell in caves or huts, while the rest are homeless.

By Emperor William's directions, orders have recently been read out in all public schools in Germany, forbidding the boys and girls from writing letters to the Emperor and Empress. Until a short time ago the Emperor and his consort were wont to give attention to letters written to them by children, and when practicable to comply with the requests contained therein. This was published in the newspapers in order to illustrate the kind-heartedness of the Emperor and his wife. But this publication has had the result of encouraging thousands upon thousands of children to address the imperial couple in the same way until the matter has degenerated into a positive nuisance. Henceforth, whenever a boy or girl addresses a letter to Their Majesties it will be turned over by the palace authorities to the teachers of the schools to which the writer belongs with a view to severe punishment.