

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Looked at from whatever standpoint we wish, intemperance lies at the bottom of most of our personal demoralization, our domestic wretchedness, our social debasement, our poverty and our crime; and therefore any Government that will reform the evil will earn the everlasting gratitude of present and future generations.

The Belfast Witness notes that the unconventional habits of the Pope are still troubling the traditions of the Vatican. Visitors find that His Holiness has a great objection to the practice of kneeling in his presence. He takes care to settle them promptly and comfortably in chairs, and then, to their amazement, he remains standing. Children are on no account permitted to kneel for the Pope's blessing. He takes them up and kisses them.

An exchange calls attention to the fact that the "Southern Tobaccoist" has the courage to warn against the excessive use of tobacco by minors. It cites the fact that "there are business men of biggest brain and railroad presidents and great factory managements, etc., who prohibit cigarette smoking in old or young, based on the fact that cigarette-smokers are far less useful and reliable, morally and physically than non-users.

An aged Presbyterian—probably the oldest in the maritime provinces—died recently at Sheffield Mills, N. S., at the great age of 102 years. Mrs. Nicholas Quinn was of Irish descent, and up till about a year ago her faculties were all good. She was devoted to her church, and she has passed from the militant ranks with a memory fragrant of loyal faith and good works. She was the mother of a family of thirteen, all of whom went before her.

Mr. Moody used to tell of an English colonel in India, who declared that he had lived there long enough to shoot thirty tigers, but had never seen a heathen convert; whereas a missionary, who had spent a lifetime there, said he had never seen a tiger. Both were truthful. Each found what he wanted. One thirsted for tiger blood another for souls. One found no converts in the jungles, the other no tigers in meeting-houses.

The Protestant movement in the German provinces of Austria continues to grow, and the number of converts has passed the twenty-five thousand line. For a time Roman Catholicism ignored the movement, but are now beginning to vigorously combat it. As a consequence journals of the Roman Catholic church in that country are publishing the most extraordinary, not to say ludicrous and infamous, stories concerning Protestant leaders of the past and Protestant doctrines. For instance, one journal says: "Their Luther sanctioned a thousand adulteries and murders in one day, as is seen from one of his letters to Melancthon. Many Protestant pastors who are married have been found guilty of adultery and immorality, and have been condemned to

prison for terms of years, and many of the German Austrians who have entered the Protestant camp are guilty of the same sins." A cause which has to be supported by the publication of such infamies must be in a very bad way.

Rev. Robert Ellis Thompson, a member of the Philadelphia Presbytery, argues through the Freeman's Journal that Scotland needs home rule quite as much as Ireland. His review of England's efforts to Anglicize the Scotch Church from the days of Knox down to the recent decision of the Law Lords, is a noteworthy view and deserving of serious reflection. The Philadelphia Westminster remarks: "There was a time when the United Free Church decision would have created a revolution. It is better perhaps as it is, but the stool of Jennie Geddes may yet have further work to do.

China is progressing. The Dowager Empress of that country, a remarkable woman, has ordered examinations for promotion of scholars of the empire to be in modern languages and sciences, instead of in the maxims of Confucius and the wisdom of the early sages. She has come to the position of the Emperor which she so cruelly combated only six years ago. If the Chinaman responds to the new learning as the Japanese did, what will be the phase of the Eastern problem a century from now? This is a question which is being seriously discussed in the European press. The Christianization of China becomes more imperative as the years roll on.

Dr. Henry H. Jessup, for many years a missionary in Turkey, writes to the "Christian Work and Evangelist": "I am glad to say that the work of Christian Missions in Turkey and Egypt was never more prosperous. Seven American colleges with nearly 3,000 students are leading the work of higher education in Turkey. Add to these not less than 25 boy's high schools, and nearly 30 girl's boarding schools together with hundreds of village schools where the Bible is daily taught and you have a good Christian educational system. The Syrian Protestant College, in Beirut, stands at the head of all these schools. Every department of the college is flourishing."

General Booth, having finished his Evangelistic tour through England and Scotland pronounces the state of religion much higher in the Presbyterian country. Answering the query of a "Daily News" representative as to his impression received during his motor-car mission, he said:—"There is more prosperity in the country, but I cannot say the people are more devout. There may be less open and blatant vice and ignorance, but the trend of things is away from creeds and churches." The General is, however, as optimistic as ever. He is specially full of praise for Scotland, which "truly crowned the campaign."—The Belfast Witness remarks: "This marvellous evangelist and philanthropist is more enthusiastic in his devotion to the social and spiritual welfare

of the masses than ever. For this Social Wing he now wants £10,000 and no one can doubt that he will quickly raise it."

Does prohibition prohibit? is a question often asked, and to which many answers have been returned convincing or otherwise. As a proof that at least prohibition helps largely to lessen, if not stamp out crime, we append a few figures respecting the results of local option prohibition in Texas, recently published: "There are in the State of Texas twenty-three Prohibition counties that have no convicts in the penitentiary, and nine with only one convict each. In thirty-nine prohibition counties there are only twenty-three convicts in all. San Jacinto County alone, with a population of 10,227, and the open saloon, has twenty-five convicts and Montgomery, with open saloons and 17,057 population has, twenty-one convicts in the State prison; and these are two poor counties in the pinery woods. Collin County with 50,000 people and no saloons, has twenty convicts; Lamar county, with 48,000 and saloons, has ninety-six. A large part of Texas has no saloons, and has one convict in 1,500 of population, while the territory with saloons has one convict for every 500 of population." These figures are eloquent and their testimony is all against drink.

Lord Radstock, an honor man at Oxford in his youth and colonel commandant of the Middlesex Volunteers, has recently made his fifth visit to India and given in the London Times the impression made upon his mind by the progress of Christian missions in India. He declares that open hostility is a thing of the past, and that multitudes are only waiting for some moving of the waters to announce themselves unreservedly as having given up native superstitions and having embraced Christian beliefs. He gives an account of the famous Hindu ascetic, Swami Dharmandj, who has recently become a convert to Christianity. Formerly he held so high a position among the leaders of Hinduism that even Brahmins took a low place before him. The common people looked upon him as "most holy," he having visited 230 sacred shrines during his various pilgrimages. His first impressions favorable to Christianity arose from hearing a missionary sermon upon the text, "I am the true vine." In order to be sure that he understood the Scriptures he gave himself to the study of Greek and Hebrew, and before accepting Christ made also a thorough investigation of the claims of Mohammed. The result of seventeen years of close application to this one pursuit is seen in his open avowal of the Christian faith. His act has made a great stir among the people who appreciate his character and have revered his attainments. His example reaches millions who would never give a moment's attention to a missionary from England or the States.