

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

There are ninety men in the Scots Guards averaging six feet two and a half inches in height. Not one is under six feet, and twelve are six feet four inches.

Twenty-six per cent of the entire population of the world lives under the Union Jack, 9 per cent under Russian rule, 6 under French, and nearly six under America.

Mr. Carnegie has written definitely to Mr. G. R. Maxwell, M. P., that he will give \$50,000 to Vancouver for a free library if Vancouver gives free ground and spends \$5,000 a year in sustenance fund.

The Shanghai correspondent of the London 'Standard' mentions a report that the allies in the event of the failure of the Emperor Kwang Su to return to Peking intend to proclaim his brother, Prince Chun, as regent.

The little town of Wantage in Berkshire, has a unique history. It is the birthplace of Alfred the Great, who stands through all ages as the founder of the commercial and political supremacy of the British Empire.

The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York have started on their tour around the world, its special object being that the Duke, as heir to the British throne, shall open in person the first meeting of the Parliament of the new Australian federation.

Henry Brown, an Auchttermuchty man, has died at the age of 102 years. He was a bit of a humorist. About two years ago the parish minister complimented him on his fleetness of foot. "Nae winder, man," was the retort, "I've had langer practice than you!"

The Capetown correspondent of the London 'Daily Mail' says he learns on good authority that the British Government will almost certainly adopt the dual language system in the new colonies, a decision, which, he adds, will cause disappointment in Capetown.

The average number of children per family in European countries is lowest in France, with 3.03; Switzerland 3.94; Austria and Belgium, 4.05; England, 4.08; Germany, 4.10; Holland, 4.22; Scotland, 4.46; Italy, 4.56; Spain, 4.65; Russia, 4.83; while Ireland is highest, with an average of 5.40 children in each family.

Father O'Leary, who was attached as Catholic chaplain to the first Canadian contingent in South Africa, was often under fire, and marched here and there among the men encouraging them. "Seek cover, Father, seek cover," an entrenched trooper would say. "Faith, I'm all right, boys," he would reply; "the bullets don't come my way." He had a remarkable record of escapes.

A fisherman on the coast near Cork said to a priest, a friend of Lord Morris, who had a villa near, "They tell me, yer riverence, that these judges has a power of money from the Government. I hear Lord Morris has £1000 a year!" The friend said, "He has £5000." To which the other replied, "£5000! Now to think of that, and that man passes my door every day, an' I've never seen a sign of drink on him!"

Russia is refusing to support the demands of other Powers for further punishment of Chinese officials. In view of the horrible atrocities and wholesale slaughters perpetrated by Russia on the Amur river last summer and fall, this leniency to the Boxer leaders will be attributed not so much to genuine desire to shew mercy as to a purpose to pose as China's friend, and thereby gain further concessions from the Chinese Government.

Early next month says the Scottish American Journal, the 145th anniversary of the foundation of the Scotch Presbyterian Church, Central Park, New York, will be held. Among those who will assist in the celebration will be Rev. Dr. Henry C. McCook, Philadelphia; Rev. Dr. T. G. Purves and Rev. Dr. S. M. Hamilton, the last named of whom is the only-living ex pastor. A reception will be tendered to the pastor, Rev. Dr. D. G. Wylie, who will then have been ten years in charge.

Not since the days of the famous Dr. Cumming, when the narrow streets in the neighborhood of Crown Court, London, were lined with the carriages of dukes and duchesses, and the resources of the church were strained to the utmost to find seating accommodation, has there been such a congregation in the old Scottish Church, Covent Garden, as on Sunday, the 3rd ult. The occasion was the special Gaelic service, which was organized by the London Gaelic Service Committee in memory of Queen Victoria.

People in Scotland are greatly exercised just now over a report published by Dr. Clouston, superintendent of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum for the Insane. It sets forth several rather startling facts. He declares that 115 of his cases last year—being a quarter of the total admissions—were attributable solely to drink; and so he urges that men should be taught how to use their money, as well as how to earn it. Another striking fact which he brings out is, the greater prevalence of insanity among the poor in the Highlands than in the cities, but two contributing causes for this may be mentioned. First, the population of the Highlands is largely denuded of its strongest and most energetic elements for behoof of the cities and towns, and so the Highlands are largely populated by the weak and aged; and second, intermarriage has often been carried to an alarming extent in the Highlands.

At a recent meeting of the board of governors of McGill university it was announced that Sir W. C. Macdonald had made an additional donation of \$150,000, of which \$50,000 will be used for the endowment of a chair of chemistry; \$62,500 endowment for a chair of botany, and \$12,500 additional for a physics chair. The sum of \$150,000, released by the donation, will be applied to the extension of the arts curriculum. Miss Jessie Dow has donated \$60,000 for the establishment of a chair of political economy. Montreal has the money as well as the generous spirit.

A bill has been passed by the British House of Lords, and doubtless will likewise be passed by the House of Commons, which should tend to discourage habitual drunkenness in England, to which country alone it applies, but possibly it may yet be extended, to both Scotland and Ireland. Among other things this Bill provides that habitual drunkenness shall be regarded as persistent cruelty, and shall entitle a wife to divorce from a drunken husband. It further provides that no liquor shall be sold to drunkards, and also inflicts a severe penalty on a person who becomes intoxicated while caring for a child.

Sir Walter Scott, of course, figures a good deal in the record, "Edinburgh in the Nineteenth Century." The publication of 'Marmion' took place in 1808. The price of the work was £1. 11s. 6d. but the book was "received with great enthusiasm by the public." One of the first acts of George IV. on his accession in 1820 was to make the great novelist a baronet, and it is related that when the King reached the Firth of Forth in 1822 and was told that Sir Walter was alongside the Royal Yacht, he exclaimed, "Sir Walter Scott! the man in Scotland I most wished to see. Let him come up." It was not, however, until 1827 that Sir Walter, at a Theatrical Fund dinner, publicly avowed himself to be the author of the Waverley novels. Sir Walter died 21st September, 1832.

Glancing at the statistics of Canada we find that the connection between crime and creed is recognized to the extent of giving the religious denomination of the criminal. No church escapes the sorrow and the shame of persons in prison, who bear its name. No church to-day can proudly repeat the challenge of Tertullian. Last year's report of criminal statistics shows that in Canada 5,248 were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment, &c. Of these 174 were Baptists, 2428 were Roman Catholics, 984 Church of England, 566 Methodists, 429 Presbyterians; and besides these 533 are set down as "Protestants." For the hundreds, or the thousands, here set down the churches are in a sense held responsible. There is an element of justice in this,—for if all the churches did their whole duty there would doubtless be a much smaller list of criminals than now offend the eye.—Presbyterian Witness.