

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA

Single Copies 5 Cents

NOTE AND COMMENT

The annual register of the Universalist Church in the United States shows that it embraces 689 ministers, 897 parishes, 52,272 families and 51,694 members. The Sunday school membership is 43,368, and the property is valued at \$12,018,915. The young people's organizations number about 9,000 members, including the Juniors.

News comes from Chicago that owing to the recent success of a flat tenant, who took legal action against his landlord because he would not renew his lease owing to the birth of the tenant's two children, other similar cases have been started. The judge declared that children have as much right to protection as game, and the decree of the landlords against children tended to encourage race suicide. It was also found to be against Statute law, as it involved the health, safety and general welfare of the community.

From a well-informed source I learn (says the London correspondent of the Liverpool Post) that the Turkish Government has managed to get hold of most of the moneys which the ex-Sultan of Turkey had deposited in various European banks. He is believed to have been induced to disgorge by far the larger portion of his savings invested abroad. His favorite, Izzet Pasha, had, it is said, a million in foreign banks; and it is therefore probable that his Majesty's deposits were much larger.

Arabic language is growing in influence and power, and is one of the great living languages of the world. The Arabic Koran is a text-book in the day-schools of Turkey, Afghanistan, Java, Sumatra, New Guinea, and Southern Russia. Arabic is the spoken language not only of Arabia proper, but forces the linguistic boundary of that peninsula three hundred miles north of Bagdad to Diarbekr and Mardin, and is used all over Syria and Palestine, and the whole of Northern Africa. Even at Cape Colony there are daily readers of the language of Mohammed.

How much do you know about God's Word? for example, about the Book of Job, or of the Book of Zechariah, or the Book of the Revelation? And if the average Christian of 40 or 50 years of age does not know these books now, when or how is he or she likely to ever learn them? Something must be done, and done without delay, if large numbers of Christians are not to die in ignorance of large tracts of God's Word. There are 66 books—and let us say the expectation of life is 20 or 25 years, that means that such a Christian ought to thoroughly study (say) two or three books of God's Word each year. Only in this way, by definitely allotting so much of God's Word for each week's careful study, can the average Christian ever expect to know much about God's Word.

That there has been a carnival of crime in the United States during the past year is readily shown by the investigation of the Chicago Tribune. However, the showing is slightly more favorable than that of the previous year. The number of suicides among the professional classes is found to rank in the following order: Physicians, attorneys, clergymen, college professors, journalists, artists. The number of suicides from business losses have greatly decreased, bankers and bank employees leading the list. There has also been quite a decrease in the number of homicides, but an increase of legal executions. There is also a marked decrease in the number of lynchings.

In the year 1909 the leading Christian denominations in the United States made a good advance. The Roman Catholic claim is now 15,000,000, but this is population, which with them is about equivalent to membership. Methodists and Baptists are quite near together, the former having a little more and the latter a little less than six millions. Lutherans are well on toward the 2,500,000 figure, and Presbyterians made a good stride last year toward the 2,000,000 line. Disciples of Christ will soon pass the 1,500,000, a remarkable showing in a century, and the Episcopal Church numbers now almost 1,000,000, the year 1909 having been the greatest annual increase since Jamestown, 1607.

In some recollections of the late Mr. Gladstone, contributed to the "Church Family Newspaper," Mr. A. C. Benson tells how on one occasion when something was said about the right use of abbreviations in printed books, Mr. Gladstone intervened, and said with passionate emphasis that by far the most important contribution to the welfare of the world he had ever made was the invention of two financial symbols to express respectively a thousand and a million. The symbol for a thousand was the letter M, for a million the letter M surrounded by a circle. After a pause he added in a melancholy tone, "But it was not taken up and the world has never profited by a discovery that might have infinitely enriched it."

Says the Philadelphia Westminster: The old story of Jews flocking to Palestine is revived in the newspapers. Perhaps it is true this time. There are reasons why now it should be true. The liberal movement in the Turkish Empire and the new constitution give the Jews privileges in the Holy Land which they are eagerly accepting. The plain of Esdraelon is being covered with Jews and the Jordan Valley is as attractive as in past ages. More than one hundred Jewish schools already exist in Jerusalem and synagogues are being built far and wide. It would long be welcome news to the lovers of the Catskill and Shawangunk regions that all the New York Jews were going back to the Holy Land. That the Turk should ever become a world benefactor is a new thought, but it seems in a fair way to be realized.

The Christian World and Evangelist has the following: "Some unique but truthful remarks were made a few days ago at Kansas City, when, addressing the Ministers' Alliance, of Kansas, on 'The Faith of a Journalist,' Walter Williams, dean of the School of Journalism at Missouri University, spoke of the similarity of the Bible to the modern newspaper. 'The best journalist with whose work I am acquainted,' said Mr. Williams, 'was Moses. He was the first great editor. You plead for the publication of only the good and the beautiful in your favorite daily newspaper. It was an earlier prophet, not a wiser one, who cried: "Prophecy unto us smooth things." In one of the five books Moses edited the great editor gave more criminal news, and that more graphically than to-day's newspapers would dare—for example, the reports of the disobedience of Adam, the drunkenness of Noah, the falsehoods of Abraham and the iniquity of the city of Sodom. Mr. Williams might also have declared a fact that the Bible is the best literature extant. Its stories are intensely dramatic. Its style is perfect and convincing throughout its variety. Its poetry is uplifting. Its historical chapters show philosophy teaching by example. Leaving its divine inspiration and spiritual nature out of consideration, it is the world's greatest book."

Ignorance of the law is not accepted as a sufficient excuse for its violation, remarks the Cumberland Presbyterian. We are presumed to know. It is a hard rule, sometimes; for it is no easy matter for the average citizen to become acquainted with the multiplicity of laws of a complex civilization; but where the means of knowledge is at hand ignorance is not only an insufficient excuse, but worse. In the eyes of the civil law it is often a crime; in the eye of the moral law it is sin. What about the captain who wrecks his ship on a rock and pleads ignorance; when he had not looked at the chart in his cabin, on which the rock was plainly plotted? What about the engineer, who wrecked his train because he failed to read the orders handed him? And what about you if you wreck your life and then plead ignorance, if you have not studied the Guide-Book which God has given?

If the cause of union is not advanced, it is certainly not the fault of "The Scotsman," which, in leading article after leading article, returns to the subject and throws all its influence on the side of an Incorporating Union. Christmas Day was appropriately chosen for the latest article, and here there is a new feature of exceptional interest. The writer leaves generalities behind and enters into details. He asks the question—What should the future Church of Scotland be? And he answers the question thus—"As to its name, it should be 'The Church of Scotland.' There can be no difficulty there, for there is no church in Scotland, however small, but claims to be the 'Church of Scotland.' As to provision for ordinances it should conserve the heritage of the Church for the purposes which that heritage served throughout the past centuries—thus providing the ordinances of religion for the poor throughout the land. As to spiritual independence, the jurisdiction now possessed by the Courts of the Church of Scotland, and only claimed by the Courts of the United Free Church, should be beyond shadow of doubt acknowledged by the State and guaranteed to the future Church of Scotland; and the Church be further acknowledged as possessed of full power to formulate such beliefs as it may profess, and regulate its own internal affairs. The Lord High Commissioner, too, may be retained; he can hardly give offence to any, and he is a symbol which the Scottish historic spirit might do well to cherish, though if he were to go as the price of union the terms would not be high. Thus the future Church of Scotland would conserve all that is best in both Churches. It would be acknowledged as the National Church—indeed, one of the most national churches in the world, with the vast mass of the people within its pale; it would have at its command the unrivalled liberality of the United Free Church, and the power to deal with the problems of poverty and social misery which only an endowed church can possess. And in all this, what can a United Free Church minister object to? State connection—he rejoices in it now in his school. The country will watch with hope, and also with anxiety, to see what answer the Union Committees will give. If the clerics fail to agree, let them hand the problem over to a committee of laymen, who would soon find a solution for the difficulty. And a solution must be found ere long. The spirit of Christmas must at last prevail over the spirit of antagonism."

A great many people are always getting ready to enjoy things, but they never find the time. God intends that we shall enjoy everything. When his Spirit abides in us we do not need to wait for some future time to enjoy. Enjoyment is found in labor, in life's every duty and trial. All experiences become bearers of joys.