

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

In Ireland the potato crop is of exceptional promise, and so far there is not the least sign of disease.

The Viceroy of India has cabled that the monsoon is irregular and weak, and rainfalls for the most part much below the average everywhere.

It is said there is little probability that Mr. John Morley's life of Mr. Gladstone will be ready for publication this year. Next spring is now spoken of as the probable date of its appearance.

The South African Presbyterian Church will not hold its annual gatherings this year on Sept. 11 in Johannesburg as arranged, owing to the disturbed state of the country and the scattered condition of the congregations.

The Baptist Union of Wales has signalled its annual meeting by unanimously resolving that it cannot join the National Free Church Council "so long as the Central Council, as such, makes arrangements for united communion services."

A great many Irishmen have found their way into the English Presbyterian Church, and it is noteworthy that they occupy many of the leading pulpits. The two representatives sent out to Australia—the Rev. Dr. Meharry and Rev. Dr. Hanson—are both Irishmen.

The town of Anstruther, Fifeshire, had recently a unique wedding, when a Tahitian Princess was married to a local Presbyterian minister. The marriage ceremony was performed by three ministers, the chief part being taken by a veteran of the London Missionary Society, who has been a life-long friend of the bride. He baptised the Princess when an infant in her native island of Tahiti.

A certain well-known barrister, noted for great absence of mind, was once witnessing a performance of "Macbeth," and on the witches replying to the Thane's inquiry that they were doing "a deed without a name," catching the sound of the words, he started up, and suddenly exclaimed, to the immense astonishment of the audience, "A deed without a name? Why, it's void! It's not worth sixpence!"

Some striking facts were brought out in the anniversary sermon of the S.P.G. which was preached in St. Paul's Cathedral by the Bishop of Bombay. He entered at great length into the difficulties which impede the progress of Christianity in India. The Bible, on its literary and ethical side, was highly regarded, and the Person of Christ revered, but the natives desired, above everything else, the resuscitation of nationality, which was the goal of their lives, and regarded Christianity, like our secular politics, ideas, and customs, as of Western origin, and adverse to an Oriental Kingdom of Orientals.

Dr. Hunter writes in the "Herald and Presbyter" that in his fifteen years' experience of the Synod of Indiana he had observed some ministerial misfits and church troubles. Six out of eight cases in which the Presbyteries had to step in were due to uneducated men who had come in by the "back door" from churches where the education standard was low. He says, truly, "Teachers with more brass than brains, and more zeal than learning, are not calculated to build up a solid church."

It is beyond the limit of any merely human descriptive powers to do justice to the timber wealth of the Pacific Coast. It has been calculated with reference to British Columbia alone that at the present rate of consumption it would take 700 years to exhaust the most available supplies of timber; and as under the husbandry of Nature forests will renew themselves in less time than 700 years, the calculation is merely a way of indicating that the timber resources of the Pacific Coast are practically inexhaustible.

A writer in the "Methodist Times" is very anxious for the Wesleys "to have some definite Scriptural doctrine on baptism." "I have been attending Methodist places of worship for twenty years, and have never heard a sermon having the most remote reference to baptism, and as Rev. R. H. A. Morton says, 'If it was worth while for our Lord to appoint baptism one of the two solemn sacraments of His Church, it is worth our while to come to the clearest possible understanding as to what it means and to whom it should be administered.'"

A born controversialist, everyone knows what a sturdy champion Disestablishment, temperance, education, and such like causes has had for many years in Principal Hutton. For thirty years he has been convener of important committees, and has often conferred with Lord Advocates and Secretaries of State. With Mr. Gladstone he had repeated interviews. Principal Hutton, whose ministerial jubilee is to be worthily celebrated in September, is in his seventy-sixth year, having been born at Perth in 1825. His father was a schoolmaster, and in his early days before going to Edinburgh University Dr. Hutton also followed the teaching profession.

The Halifax Presbyterian Witness says: Since our General Assembly met at Ottawa in, say, 1891, Ottawa has the pleasure and the pride of sending forth to the Presbyterian community a Presbyterian paper, THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN, founded and conducted by C. Blackett Robinson, the founder of the Canada Presbyterian. Mr. Robinson is a man of large experience, who knows the church well from Victoria to Sydney and who can conduct a paper very worthily. The account given of the late General Assembly is intelligent and comprehensive. The paper is loyal to the Church, and is well filled with news. Mr. Robinson deserves success in this enterprise.

In England the Baptists and Congregationalists are talking about union. Dr. Moore, on behalf of the Baptists, said that they would concede the mode of administration of baptism if the Congregationalists would give up infant baptism. Evidently the English Baptists are less strenuous regarding their denominational peculiarities than those in this country. Dr. Parker, for the Congregationalists, upheld the practice of infant baptism. He said: "I would baptise a baby every Sunday or every Monday—the same baby, bless its little soul! It is because it is so little and so divine and so trustful and so wholly beautiful that I would baptize it every morning." Apparently English Congregationalists also differ from their American brethren.

The Dominion Educational Association recently held its meetings in the city of Ottawa, and the attendance was comparatively small. The last convention of this kind was held in Halifax, N.S., three years ago, and the next is fixed for Winnipeg two years hence. It is no doubt important that those engaged in educational work in all parts of the land should sometimes come together for conference. In reading the reports it is evident that there are many points in our educational programme on which there is room for varied opinions, but discussions among those who speak both from thoughtful study and practical experience will in the end be helpful, though it may seem at the moment to be confusing. In all civilized countries, old and new, there is at the present time much discussion on educational matters. The conflicts of the future will not be decided by brute force, but by intellectual power and moral force. Hence, how rightly to educate the young is the prominent and pressing problem.

It is encouraging to see what encomiums are being poured on the memory of James Chalmers, the missionary and martyr of New Guinea. They come in seasonably, when even in high quarters adverse criticism is not thought unbecoming of missionaries and mission efforts. Robert Louis Stevenson was so impressed by the personality and efforts of James Chalmers that he called him "The Great Heart of New Guinea," and desired to outlive him that he might write his life. And Admiral Erskine, after speaking of the great services rendered to the British Government by Chalmers, wrote in "The Times"—"I cannot close this letter without expressing my personal admiration and respect for the noble qualities which distinguished and adorned my late lamented friend, and the profound sorrow and distress with which I hear of his untimely and terrible death at the hands of those natives for whose benefit he spent over twenty years of his life. An earnest and true disciple of his Master, he has yielded up a life of self negation and devotion to duty to win immortality and a crown of glory which fadeth not away." Such testimony from competent witnesses might shut the mouths of the ignorant and flippant gainsayers who delight to speak lightly of missions.