

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

The "Deutschland" ss. has done the distance from New York to Plymouth in less than five and a half days; part of this record course was run at over twenty-three miles an hour.

Is not the Galt Reformer lacking in that charity which thinketh no evil when it says: "The Ottawa Citizen quotes more Scripture and obeys it less than any other newspaper in Canada."

During 1898, the colony of Natal produced over a million pounds of tea. The gardens extend southwards along the coast from the mouth of the Tugela. The leaves have a special flavor of their own.

The Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia has not only issued a decree prohibiting the importation of spirits into his territory, but has also forbidden, under pain of severe penalties, the use of tobacco and snuff.

The London Missionary Society's Report tells of a Chinese convert who had been pleading publicly for Africa at a prayer meeting. He was asked if he knew where that continent was, or anything about it. He very promptly replied: "No, but God does."

More books are published in France each year than in Great Britain and the United States combined; more books of a serious nature, especially, since France publishes only a quarter as many novels as England, and only half as many as the United States.

As we go to press, the Central Fair is complete in all its departments, and daily attracting large numbers of well-dressed and intelligent-looking people from all parts of the surrounding country. The appearance of the visitors certainly indicate good times and a large measure of prosperity.

There is no "chucker-out" attached to the Danish public-house. The regulations that govern the drink trade say that there can be no women waiters; it is unlawful to throw a drunken man into the street, he must be housed or driven home, and it is forbidden to pour out intoxicants to children.

Travellers having to cross the Irish Channel without a particular liking for the passage, will no doubt be gratified to hear that the scheme to construct a tunnel between Scotland and the Emerald Isle has not fallen through. The promoters are very keen about the scheme, and do not intend to let it drop.

A decree is said to have been issued from Rome, calling the attention of the Catholic clergy to the law prohibiting women from taking part in the music of divine service either in solos or in chorus. It is generally thought that the order is directed principally against operatic singers who have been appearing in churches.

Leong Kai Tinn, who claims to be the special ambassador of the deposed Emperor of China, Kwang Su, and is the representative of the Chinese Empire association of reformers, made lately an impassioned plea before a large audience of his countrymen in San Francisco for the restoration of the Emperor and the modernization of China.

Canadians have every reason to feel satisfied at the result of the awards at the Paris exhibition. The Dominion received 13 grand prizes, as follows: Primary, secondary and superior education; plans of public works, experimental farms, cereals, dairy produce, fruits, minerals, furs, fisheries, metallurgy and forestry. The Province of Quebec exhibits received four grand prizes, as follows: Primary education, cereals, dairy produce and minerals. The Province of Nova Scotia received two prizes, as follows: Minerals and cereals. Manitoba received one grand prize for cereals, and British Columbia one for minerals.

A press despatch under date 14th instant says: Banff is popular. At this late season of the year there are still sixty guests enjoying the beauties of Banff, in the Canadian Rockies, while ten others are making the Chalet at Lake Louise their headquarters for mountain climbing and exploration. It has not yet been decided when these hotels will be closed.

The board of governors of Morrin College contemplates making provision for continuing the work of higher education in that institution. Circumstances render it necessary to suspend the arts course, but before closing up the college and applying its resources in some other direction the trustees propose to offer Quebec an opportunity for higher culture than is provided by the ordinary school system.

The wife of Li Hung Chang is said to be the most liberal of all the Chinese women of her position, and, through her husband's sympathy with some of the ways of the foreign devis, succeeded in acquiring more education than any other woman in a similar place. She is now 55 years old. After her marriage to the Viceroy, she continued her studies under his direction, and has been always the most accessible of the titled women.

A scheme is now in formulation by which the rate-payers will be asked to vote \$50,000 towards the erection of an art and science building for Queen's University. Additional room is urgently required, and the college authorities are desirous of beginning the work of construction this fall. The Council will decide when to submit the bill. The college people would like it to be as early as possible.

Dr. Joseph Parker says: "I could make a Garden of Eden in the east end of London in three months if I had my own way. I should do nothing but burn down all the breweries and shut up all the public houses." This would certainly be a drastic measure, but yet not sufficiently drastic to work the desired change. Much would still require to be done in order to convert East London into a modern Eden.

The London correspondent of the Glasgow Herald maintains that the noise over the South African hospitals has mostly arisen out of the irritation caused to the great army of volunteer lady nurses which invested every centre of military operations, and whose removal was not affected in some instances without recourse to the stern menace of arrest at the instance of an officer and corporal's guard. These vigorous measures created the greatest indignation among the ranks of the fair ministrants to the sick and wounded; and a crop of not too kindly reports as to the state of the hospitals was the consequence.

After having been closed for over a year for rearrangement of materials, the Babylonian room at the British Museum is again open. Letters and account books from Babylonian temples are shown which are said to look as fresh as if just taken from the potter's oven—being hard burned clay tablets. They are more than four thousand years old. Among the most interesting objects displayed are royal letters of Amraphel, who lived about the time of Abraham. Letter writing was a common thing—for the higher classes—two thousand years before Christ. Babylonian and Egyptian personal letters now in the hands of the archaeologists show that men and women were not essentially different thousands of years ago from what they are today.

The Citizen says: "Laurier will enter the campaign handicapped by the circumstance that the elector will experience great difficulty in believing what he says."

Is this kind of thing fair? Is it honest? The trouble is that vilification of public men is not confined to one side. While the "Tory" press call names and cry down the liberal leaders, the same policy is pursued by the "Grit" press and politicians toward their opponents. With them Sir Charles Tupper is the "great stretcher." To read the opposition papers one would think the government party were a lot of pilferers and pre-

varicators; and then turning to the columns of the liberal press, the only conclusion one can reach—providing you believe what you read—is that the leaders of her Majesty's loyal opposition are a set of dishonest charlatans. Both positions are wrong. The leading men in both parties represent the average worth—morally and mentally—of the electorate of Canada. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Charles Tupper, as prominent public men, are fair subjects for criticism; but to say that these gentlemen are so given to lying as to render their statements unworthy of credence is neither decent nor truthful. THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN is not in politics, but bespeaks for representative men of both parties a fair hearing and candid treatment at the hands of the press in the coming contest. Deal with principles; leave personalities severely alone.

The name of C. Blackett Robinson, remarks the Acton Free Press, has for many years been most familiar in the homes of Presbyterian families throughout the Dominion, because of his position as publisher of the Canada Presbyterian. This paper some time ago passed out of Mr. Robinson's hands, but his journalistic instinct and his love for the church of his choice have induced him to publish a new and improved Presbyterian journal—The Dominion Presbyterian. The new paper is published at the Capital—Ottawa—and is abreast of the times in the publication of all news pertaining to the church, splendid family reading, well written editorial comment, etc. Its various departments are well sustained and are worthy of the experienced publisher.

Considerable dissatisfaction is being expressed at the manner in which the Toronto Industrial Fair is being conducted. Exhibitors of machinery, etc., claim that too much attention is given to the circus element to the exclusion of the industrial exhibits, and that these side-shows detract from their displays, and, in consequence, they lose money, in place of getting a benefit. There is, no doubt, a great deal in these contentions. The Industrial is really a big circus, but, nevertheless, it draws the crowds, and that is, apparently, what the management are after. It does seem a pity, however, that the educative qualities of the fair should be sacrificed for the sake of a few dollars. In order that there may be improvement in the right direction, a radical change in the personnel of the directorate will be found necessary.

In the city of Montreal, says the Witness, the recent cold storage scandal is much exercising commercial minds, and the desire is universal that the guilty parties may be punished. It has been stated that forged warehouse receipts to the amount of about \$300,000 were issued, at the same time that the company had only about \$50,000 worth of goods in storage. It is certainly one of the biggest scandals which has ever overwhelmed the produce trade, and it has been suggested that an investigation should be undertaken under the direction of Mr. Fitzpatrick, the solicitor-general of the Dominion. In the case of the Ville Marie Bank, government investigation achieved results which eminently satisfied the public, and in the present case, "thoroughness" is quite as necessary. The total liabilities are over half a million dollars.

Sir Wm. Harcourt's letter to "The Times" on the present crisis in the Church of England is a terrible indictment against the Bishops. He charges them with cowardice in not dealing promptly and authoritatively with the band of anarchists in the church, so defiantly led on by Lord Halifax. He says:—"So far as discipline is concerned it must be acknowledged that the Church of England has ceased to be an Episcopal church." He tells the Protestant laity that if they fail to employ the remedy that the constitution of the church has placed in their hands, they have no one but themselves to thank for the state of things of which they complain. He says the existing law has not been put in force, and it is idle to expect Parliament to apply fresh legislation until it is proved by experience that the law as it stands does not afford an adequate remedy.