

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

An anti-opium crusade in the Malay states is meeting with great success. A plant said to possess the properties of curing the opium habit has been discovered in Selangor, and this is being distributed wholesale.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Mail, says that ear drums made of thin leaves of silver are being used in the Russian military hospitals for diseases of the ear to replace defective organs.

A contemporary states that a recent census disclosed that among 5,000 car drivers in Vienna there are 400 knights, 50 barons and four counts. If the tourist does not know their rank he is respectfully requested to ask a policeman.

The Funk & Wagnalls Co., has in press a new Bible Dictionary. It is to be a single volume of about 700 pages. Doctor Jacobus and Professor Zenos are among the editors. The appearance of the work will be awaited with interest.

Westminster Chapel, London, the church of which Rev. Dr. Campbell Morgan is pastor, will in the future devote one-tenth of its income to foreign mission work, and the pastor is to preach, once a month, a sermon on the extension of the kingdom in foreign lands.

A convention of Ontario's prohibitionists is to be held in Toronto on the 21st and 22nd inst. One of the matters which will engage the attention of the Convention is a proposal to press for the repeal of the feature of the liquor law which requires a three-fifths vote to adopt local prohibition.

The Catholic hierarchy of the United States consists at present of one papal delegate, one cardinal, fourteen archbishops, ninety bishops and eighteen abbots. The oldest dignitary in the United States is the Most Rev. John Joseph Williams, Archbishop of Boston, who was consecrated bishop forty-one years ago.

It is claimed that a new metal called monel is being produced by the Canadian Copper Co., at Sudbury. It is a compound of copper, nickel, iron, and one or two other minerals, and its importance lies in this, that it is less costly than nickel, less liable to rust, and will serve most of the purposes for which nickel is now required. Its various constituents are all produced in the Sudbury region.

Reports from the famine district in China indicate that it is widespread and severe. The territory afflicted is in Eastern Mid-China, with the centre somewhere in Western Kiangsu or Eastern Honan. An International Committee to deal with relief has been organized in Shanghai, comprised of consuls, merchants, missionaries, and Chinese officials. Already help is being received from several foreign countries.

Cairo in Egypt is now practically the centre of the Mohammedan religion. Here for nearly one thousand years has been the chief theological seminary where ten thousand students are now studying the religion of Islam and its laws, ritual, apologetics, etc., and from this place they go forth to spread that religion into other lands. The English Church Missionary Society has here a mission station and publishes "The Orient and Occident" in Arabic, which has a large circulation and is an effective missionary agency.

English capitalists have closed a contract with the Government of Newfoundland for a fast steamship line to run between a port on the Irish coast and St. John's. The steamers are to make 32 knots an hour.

The spirit of the Romish Church was shown last week by one of its members of the French Senate. In a speech abusing the Republic, he said: "I am not a Legitimist, but I would welcome a King or Emperor if he would rid us of this hideous republic, which dirties the soil of France." Rome is now, as ever, working and plotting to overthrow the republican governments; not only in France but of the United States and all others. Romeism and republicanism are incompatible and irreconcilable.

Chicago is reported to be in the midst of a spiritual awakening. Two weeks of revival services under the direction of Dr. Torrey in the Moody Church, special services in Dr. Dixon's church and in other churches have resulted in several hundred professions. The coming of Gypsy Smith, under Congregational auspices, enlisted the hearty co-operation of other Protestant bodies. The interest has been kindled, too, not only among Christian people, but the masses outside of the churches have shown surprising concern.

Andrew Carnegie is to have his name attached to a new university in Chicago, which was incorporated last week. Its objects and limitations, as set forth in the articles of incorporation, are: "The object is to establish and conduct a university for the teaching of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, science and arts, law, theology, and all kindred branches of learning. The corporation shall not be conducted for profit, but solely as an educational institution as the board of managers shall determine in accordance with the laws and constitution of the State of Illinois."

The temperance crusade in the diocese of Montreal, inaugurated by Archbishop Bruchesi at the beginning of last year, has been successful in a large degree. By the Archbishop's direction the parish priests throughout the diocese have given special attention to temperance teaching and the enrolment of pledge signers, and one order of priests was especially designated to visit parishes and help in the work. Returns received at the first of the year show that the pledge has been taken by 25,672 men, and 27,527 women. Much work has been done among the children, which is likely to bear abundant good fruit.

Dr. Diggle (Bishop of Carlisle), England, in a New Year pastoral to the clergy, says—"If the extreme practices which caused the appointment of the Ritual Commission should spread much further in our Church, if the ways of the unreformed Church of Rome should be largely imitated in the Reformed Church of England, then the days of Disestablishment are not far off, and with Disestablishment will inevitably come disruption." Noting this utterance the Belfast Witness says:—"Dr. Diggle is not only Evangelical in this view, but prophetic. Romanising will certainly result in Disestablishment, Protestant sentiment and conviction will demand that. Then will ensue disruption; the Evangelicals cannot follow the others into the Roman fold, but form a separate Communion be they ever so few in number. How the Broad Church section will act is not so clear."

The German government has won a definite victory in the general elections held on Friday for a new Reichstag. The liberal, radical and conservative parties, supporting Prince Von Buelow's colonial policy, have won at least twenty seats, but most important for the government than the success of its colonial plans is the smashing defeat administered to the socialists, who will lose a total of seventeen or eighteen seats.

The Lutheran Observer notes that The Puritan, evidently a Rio de Janeiro paper, tells that Secretary Root, during his stay in that city while on his South American tour, declined an invitation to attend a horse race on the Sabbath, on the ground that he consecrated the day to holy rest. In the program of festivities which were held in Rio de Janeiro on the first Sunday of his stay there, it was mentioned that the Secretary would spend the day in retirement with his family, and not receive visitors. The Observer adds: "In view of reports of the conduct of some of our officials, both diplomatic and military, in Cuba, the Philippines and Panama, on the Sabbath day—their participation in baseball, other sports and social functions—it is particularly gratifying that Secretary Root should have taken this stand and have given the reason for it in so unequivocal a manner. It will add to the high esteem in which he is already held."

The eleven different movements of the World's Student Christian Federation will meet in Tokyo, Japan, April 3 to 7. This will bring together for the first time in the history of the Christian Church leaders from all parts of Asia. Richard C. Morse, John R. Mott and other leaders of the Student Movement of the Young Men's Christian Association will attend these meetings, and also the centennial of missions to be held at Shanghai in May. The World's Student Federation, which was organized by the Young Men's Christian Association at Northfield, now has one hundred and thirteen thousand members, has sent over several thousand missionaries and has made the study of missions popular in colleges. Following the great convention in Tokyo, the student leaders of the world will spend a month making evangelistic tours in Japan, speaking at the great centres of the kingdom. They will be accompanied by prominent Japanese and skilled interpreters.

Great loss and suffering have already occurred in Alberta and contiguous portions of Western Canada, during the past few weeks owing to the unprecedented cold weather that has prevailed. Fierce storms have raged to an extent to make it certain that many cattle on the ranches will die; in some cases it is expected that as much as twenty-five per cent. of the cattle will die. Horse breeders report no losses and anticipate none, as the horses can paw their way to their food, while horned stock can only use their muzzles. Sheep are suffering to a certain extent, but the losses are being averted by the ancient method of levelling the snow of their feeding ground with drags so that they can get at the herbage. Not since the winter of 1886-87, says the Canadian Baptist, has there been anything so bad as what is being encountered this winter. The shortage of the fuel supply has added anxiety to other trials, so that our fellow citizens of the West are having a severe testing time. But we trust that their adversity may in the long run prove to be a blessing and not a curse.