

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

Wireless communication has been established between Japan and France.

William O'Brien, the Irish Nationalist leader, has retired, and suspended his paper, because of lack of support and continued persecution.

The following notice is said to be posted over the alms box of a certain cathedral door in northern Italy: "Appele to Charitables. The Brothers, so called, of Mercy, asks slender alms for the Hospital. They harbour all kinds of diseases, and have no respect to religion."

Some Jews in Chicago who wanted a Hungarian preacher and wanted a trial sermon from him first, sent him a phonograph and then passed judgment upon him from the phonographic report. This is a good idea and would put our ministerial Apollos on a level with the man who has only brains.

In England in 1700 Nonconformists numbered 1 to 22 Anglicans; in 1800 the figures were 1 to 8; in 1900 the figures stood 1 to 1.

Fifty thousand Poles in the United States have withdrawn from the Catholic church and formed themselves into the "Independent Polish church of America."

Significant indeed is the statement that not a single school house has been erected in Porto Rico during the 400 years which Spain held sway. Since American occupation nearly a quarter of a million dollars have been spent for school houses alone, and 125 American and a large staff of native teachers are employed. Already it is said that 40,000 scholars are speaking English.

The learned Chinaman believes that tigers plunging into the sea are transformed into sharks, and that sparrows by undergoing the same baptism are converted into oysters; for the latter metamorphosis is gravely asserted in canonical books, and the former is a popular notion which he cares not to question. Arithmetic he scorns as belonging to shopkeepers; and mechanics he disdains on account of its relation to machinery and implied connection with handicraft.

A wealthy Dane has handed over his steam yacht *Maia* in order that the Countess Schimmelmann may employ it in mission work among Scandinavian seamen. During two months he will work along the Danish coast, and the rest of the year she will devote to visiting the European seaports where Scandinavians most do congregate, and continue the successful mission work to which she has devoted her life.

The face of Niagara is retreating southward, worn away by the immense volumes of water that pass unceasingly over the edge of the precipice. If the quantity of water which is doing this work remains the same as now, the front of the falls will have reached the north end of Grand Island in five thousand years. This is the prediction

made by Professor John M. Clark, Paleontologist of the State of New York, in a suggestive article in the current Harper's Weekly. His conclusions as to the future of the great falls are that the entire flow of waters to the north will have ceased and the river have run back into Lake Erie, leaving the escarpment dry at a point not very far south of Goat Island—thirty-five hundred years hence.

A quiet but effective work has been organized in San Francisco for the rescue of Japanese women who have been enticed from their native country by procurers under promise of good positions and homes in America. Some surprising revelations have been made respecting the extent to which this nefarious business is being carried on. The better class of Japanese merchants and citizens are co-operating with the local Christian workers in the effort to bring offenders to justice.

As Whittier was driving one day with Emerson the latter pointed out a small unpainted house by the roadside and said: "There lives an old Calvinist in that house and she says she prays for me every day. I am glad she does. I pray for myself." "Does thee?" said Whittier. "What does thee pray for, friend Emerson?" "Well," replied Emerson, "when I first open my eyes upon the morning meadows and look out upon the beautiful world I thank God that I am alive and that I live so near Boston."

Dispatches from Europe state that the second Ziegler North Pole expedition has failed to reach Franz Josef Land. Mr. Ziegler does not credit the report. A letter was received not so very long ago from Mr. Fiala, who stated that it was probable that his ship would reach Franz Josef Land and winter there. Otherwise it would have been necessary to return to Norway before this. The ship had not coal enough to keep under steam all this time. Had she failed. Mr. Ziegler believes he would certainly have heard from Mr. Fiala by this time.

An observer recalls the interesting circumstances of the establishment of the British museum. The funds for the institution were raised by a lottery, which was authorized in 1753 by an act of Parliament, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, and the Speaker being the managers and trustees, each to receive £100 as an honorarium. The amount of the lottery is said to have been a million and a half dollars (£300,000), which was raised by £3 tickets, to provide £200,000 for prizes, varying in value from £10,000 to £10 and £100,000 for the purchase of the museum's nucleus—the Sloane collection and the Harleian Library; also to provide cases for the acquisitions and to meet other expenses. It will be remembered that the lottery became notorious through the activities of a certain Peter Leheup, who shrewdly cornered the tickets and had them sold at a premium. Leheup was afterwards prosecuted for breach of trust and fined £1000, which could not have troubled him much, as his profits from the deal was £40,000.

A lecturer in Australia told a story of a Scotchman in a hospital, who, sick and apparently nigh unto death, longed for the pibroch of his native hills. The doctors saw a gleam of hope for the poor man, and a piper was hired to play on the bagpipes. At the end of the first day there was a slight improvement in the Scotch patient. The second day's music resulted in his being able to rise from his bed, and by the third day the weird strains had completely restored him to health. "But," said the lecturer, with excellent dramatic effect, "every other patient in the ward died."

It is curious how Irishmen find their way into Highland regiments. During the Peninsula war the Black Watch had at one time 201 Irish in its ranks; the 1st battalion 71st during the same war enlisted 418 Irishmen and the 2nd battalion 669 Irishmen. But, taken generally, the 42nd, 78th, 79th, 92nd, and 93rd have always managed to maintain their characters as Highlanders, although a small proportion of Lowlanders and English and Irish has always crept into their ranks. The officering of the Scottish regiments has not always been satisfactory. In 1861, for instance, the 71st Highland Light Infantry had only eight Scottish officers, the remainder being 26 English and 10 Irish. According to the latest recruiting return there are 13,200 Scotsmen in the various Scottish regiments. Taking the 23 Scottish battalions, including the Scots Guards, it gives an average of under 600 per battalion.

The United Presbyterian has the following: France is in the midst of a serious religious struggle. The anti-clerical feeling is becoming more intense. A few days since, a strong guard was necessary to protect those who were present at mass in the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris. "Down with the priests," was shouted, but order was preserved by the military. The law of 1901, requiring the submission of the Religious Orders to the civil authorities for license, is one expression of the changing sentiment toward the Roman Catholic Church. It is probable that all Religious Orders, licensed or not, will soon be prohibited from taking any part in public instruction. It is in the air that before much time elapses the Concordat of 1801, or agreement between the Government and the Pope by Napoleon, will be repealed, and the last link between the temporal and spiritual power be broken. All this is political, but evangelical religion is making great headway. Without referring to what is done by others, the Central Society of Protestant Evangelization supports 178 workers, as pastors, evangelists and colporteurs; public worship is celebrated regularly in 450 places, the gospel is preached and visits are paid in 2,000 localities, and the aggregate attendance at these services is estimated at 100,000. It also has a preparatory school in Paris for students of theology, at Montpelier a training school for lay evangelists, and an itinerant mission of about 40 occasional workers. The general movement away from Rome continues, and a large number of priests are now evangelical teachers.