

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

A recent estimate of the percentages of communicants to population in the two great Presbyterian churches in Scotland gives the figures thus—Church of Scotland, 14.7 per cent; United Free Church of Scotland, 10.5 per cent.

The National Egyptian Congress adopted a resolution declaring that English occupation of Egypt was illegal and demanding immediate evacuation and restoration of the constitution of 1881.

The following is a significant fact to the farmer: If Jones spends \$1 for flour the farmer gets 61 cents of it. If Jones spends \$1 for drink the farmer gets 5 cents of it. If Jones buys a dollar's worth of meat 66 cents of it ultimately goes back into the farmer's pocket. If Jones buys a dollar's worth of whiskey the farmer gets a nickel out of it.

Pope Pius X. has issued a decree that the age of confirmation of children in the Catholic church shall be changed to the seventh year. Heretofore it has been the practice to confirm when eleven or twelve—largely a matter of discretion with the parish priest. The reason assigned for the change is the greater innocence of the child at the younger period.

The minister of Langholm gives in his parish magazine some interesting figures. The population is estimated at 3,300. The Church of Scotland has 878 communicants, the United Free Church 714, the Scottish Episcopal Church 143, and the Congregational Church 120—a total of 1,855. The percentages of the four churches are easily calculated, and the figures as a whole do not leave much room for a "lapsed" section of the community:

It may be a matter of surprise to learn that there are at the present time fourteen thousand negroes in the employ of the United States government—a larger number than ever before in the history of the country. There are a number who receive salaries of \$2,500 to \$5,000 a year, some as much as \$10,000—the minister to Liberia. Nearly three hundred negroes are postmasters, while about three thousand are connected with the post office department.

The service in Crathie Parish church on a recent Sunday was conducted by Mr. Sibbald and Dr. M'Adam Muir, who preached the sermon. The Moderator's text was II. Corinthians, viii, 12—"For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." The King and Queen and their family were present, and there was, as usual on such occasions, a crowded congregation. Dr. M'Adam Muir and Mr. Sibbald had the honor of dining with the King in the evening.

A German aeronaut has devised a system of orientation which will help the German aviator, at least, in finding his way through the air. Each German province is provided with a number and every community is provided with a letter. A guide book to be carried by the aviator contains a list of provinces and towns similarly designated. Thus if an aviator sees the characters "49 A I" painted upon the roof of a house in Rheinau, he knows immediately where he is by referring to his book. At night these signs are to be illuminated. The system is now actually being installed in Germany.

The Centenary of David Livingstone's birth will be observed in 1913. Charing Cross Hospital, in London, where he studied medicine, is soliciting gifts of one million shillings, which would enable it to reopen the wards (eighty-seven beds) now closed because of shrunken funds.

During the year 1909, 4,377 Roman Catholics publicly enrolled themselves as Protestants. This movement began in 1898 and the statistics of it up to and including 1909 are as follows: 1898, 1,598; 1899, 6,385; 1900, 5,058; 1901, 6,639; 1902, 5,624; 1903, 4,510; 1904, 4,362; 1905, 4,855; 1906, 4,364; 1907, 4,197; 1908, 4,585; 1909, 4,377, in all 55,554. The "Old Catholic Church" since 1898 has had accessions from Rome in Austria to the number of 14,975. In all the movement registers 70,529.

The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago graduated a class of twenty-three young men and twenty-two young women, the largest in its history, at the close of the August term of graduates for the year, having completed the full two years of Bible study, to ninety-one. Sixteen young men will enter the ministry, some of them continuing studies in theological schools; twelve of the class will enter the foreign field, the remainder engaging in definite Christian work. Seven of the class supported themselves in full during the two years and twenty in part.

In a remarkable address at the recent great temperance convention at Knowlton, Que., Archbishop Bruchesi said: "We have joined hands with you Protestant people to fight alcoholism, and to reduce the evil, to approach the civil powers, governments and city councils and secure their help. We cannot consent to our children, after being trained in homes of temperance, having to meet schools of intemperance which the bars and hotels in country and city are, and where selfish men tempt them to drink. Without being a prophet, I foresee that before fifteen years have gone our united efforts will make Canada the most sober country in the world."

I understand (says the London correspondent of the "Liverpool Post") that certain of the Evangelical leaders of the Church of England are contemplating an appeal to the King urging His Majesty to insist upon obedience to Protestant Canons by the clerical members of the Communion. Justification for this action is held to lie in the fact that the appeals to the episcopal heads of the Church have almost invariably been in vain. In this connection the two Archbishops are not, apparently, so much aimed at as, among others, the Bishop of London. The continuance of Romish practices within his lordship's diocese should, it is urged, be cited as a reason for the King's intervention.

The St. Mary's Journal well says: The Lord's Day is one of the greatest boons ever given by God to man. It is absolutely necessary for his physical health, and necessary to enable him to bear the wear and tear of the six days' work. Medical men who have studied the subject tell us that one day in seven is the most beautiful proportion that could have been devised for restoring strength taken away by the toll of the week, that is not restored by the rest of the night. Show your gratitude to God for this boon by doing all you can to maintain it for yourselves and for others. The great bulk of the working people are of this mind, that the sanctity of Sunday is to them a grand protection, that it is their only protection from having to perform seven days' work for six days' wages.

The final revised edition of the New Testament, together with the first completed book of the Old, the Psalms of David, is now issuing from the press in Chinese, and stacks of the volume are being shipped to the remotest parts of China. The project was inaugurated in 1890, at a conference of all the missionary bodies at work in China, and is being consummated at the expense of the Bible societies of the world. Several books are added each year, and it is estimated that the whole volume will be complete about the year 1915.

The importance of training native workers and encouraging all Christians to do evangelistic work was strongly emphasized at the Edinburgh missionary conference. Dr. George Heber Jones, of Korea, reported that the remarkable growth in that land was due to the activity of the main body of membership, and to the fact that church regards prayer as a primary method of work. In one region in Korea the Christians gave 6,700 days in one year for evangelistic work, and the total amount of time given by all Christians was equal to the services of one man for 300 years.

The "Interior" says that "at the urgency of a provincial league formed to promote the study of the Bible in the public schools, the government of Queensland in Australia has taken a referendum of voters on the question whether the Bible should be adopted as one of the official text-books of the school system. An expression was obtained from fifty-two per cent of the total electorate. Of these 68,000 voted affirmatively and 51,000 negatively. On receipt of these returns the league held a public praise meeting to thank God for the 'clear pronouncement of the people in favor of religious instruction in the state schools.' The Anglican bishop of Brisbane presided at this meeting, but the men and women of the free churches entered into the rejoicing as heartily as the Anglicans did. The referendum in itself decides nothing, but advocates of the innovation are confident that the next parliament will pass a law placing the Bible in the list of required studies in every public school room."

The burial of a Roman Catholic priest at sea has roused a very considerable protest from the Catholics of the country except in the practice of sea burials, except in the case of contagious or infectious diseases. It is a protest in which those of every faith can join. In these days of modern sea equipment the necessity of disposing of the bodies of those dying during a voyage is entirely a thing of the past. The unwillingness of sailors to sail on a vessel on which there may be a corpse has nothing to do with it. There might be not only one death, but several, and on a vessel and not even the passengers know of the fact. Where there is money in abundance there is rarely any difficulty even now in averting a sea burial. It should not be a question of money. Rich and poor alike should be considered the charge of the company engaging to give them passage until landed at the port to which they are booked. If the rule is intended to discourage the embarking of those in danger of death, the same end could measurably be attained by the medical examination of those manifestly ill, though even that would work a hardship to those desiring to reach home to die; but once the passage is paid for and the voyage begun, there should be no fear lest one's self or one's loved ones should be cast into the sea should death come before the harbor is reached. The protest begun through the burial of this priest should be taken up generally till the very reasonable concession demanded.