

# Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.50 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents.

## NOTE AND COMMENT.

One of the incidents of the break between France and the Vatican has been the transfer of Roman Catholic missions in the East from a French protectorate to an Italian.

The Moravian Church, with only 70,000 members, supports 2,000 missionaries in the mission field. Food for thought for the membership of Canadian Christian churches.

Park Church, Halifax, Presbyterian, has decided by a vote of 146 to 2 to use the individual cup in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The Session recommended the change.

On the declaration that "their Maker would not recognize his work if he met some women today," Mrs. Julia Ward Howe pleaded in a public address a few evenings ago for a return to a former style of loose gowns.

The Presbyterian Witness of November 1 publishes obituary notices of ten aged people, whose combined ages aggregate 807 years, an average of nearly 81 years. The youngest of the ten was 72, the eldest 92.

A C. E. Society member at San Luis Potosi Mexican Mission told the missionary that he was moving into a new house and would like very much to have a dedicatory service of some sort. A cottage prayer meeting was held.

Have you a burning desire to make the world better and happier? Begin in the little world in which you live. Make your own home cheerier, and from that work outwards. Only what one is in his own home can be effectively outside.

A clerk in the office of Adams Express Company in Pittsburgh, Pa., disappeared on the evening of October 9 with a package containing \$100,000 in currency. On October 19 he was captured, and now is confronted with the probability of spending the next twenty years in the penitentiary. The way of the transgressor is hard.

South Africa practically monopolizes the diamond industry, over seventy-five per cent of all the diamonds now on the market coming from that region. According to the reports of the customs office at the Cape of Good Hope, over \$26,000,000 worth of these precious stones are annually exported to London, whence they are distributed to other parts of the world.

The field secretary of a temperance committee in a Presbyterian synod in the United States, when asked as to the policy of the committee touching permissive legislation on the control of the liquor traffic by license, replied: "Christ came not to regulate, but to destroy the works of the devil." This was the most applauded utterance of the session.

A correspondent, writing from China in regard to the awakening that is now taking place in the Celestial empire, says: "The empire is shaking itself free from the sleep of ages; dissatisfaction with present conditions grows; desire for Western learning is becoming a craze among the educated. Meantime Japanese teachers are being called to take charge of Chinese schools from Peking to the Tibetan frontier."

English is displacing French as the language of international conference. The negotiations between the Japanese and Russians for the surrender of Port Arthur are said to have been carried on in English. This was a familiar language to the Japanese officers and to many of the Russians. But the latter had to be aided by a midshipman interpreter.

Touching appeals from Christian workers in the Far East have come to prominent citizens of the United States—and perhaps to Canada also—imploping aid for the sick and wounded soldiers of both armies and the multitude of destitute widows and orphans of soldiers killed in the war. We could not help the belligerents while they were at war, but we may help the suffering and the distressed.

The Annual Day and Week of Prayer for young men, observed throughout the brotherhood of Young Men's Christian Associations for the past forty years, will occur November 12th to 18th. Without question the last decade has been the crowning one in the history of the Association Movement, and as truly has the past twelvemonth been the crown of the decade. Especially has this been true of the religious work.

It is a favorite argument of some people that "you cannot make men sober by law." What the late Mr. Gladstone once said about the function of law seems to fit the case: "The theory of the government is to make it as easy as possible for people to do right, and as hard as possible for them to do wrong." Law is not only for the punishment of law-breakers, but for the protection of law-keepers, and law-keepers often need protection from the antics of liquor-frenzied men.

The Southwestern Presbyterian notes that Governor Glenn, of North Carolina, has publicly declared himself for the prohibition of the sale of liquor in his state. He has offered his services to canvass for the cause, and expresses the belief that North Carolina can be carried by 50,000 to 75,000 majority. If a governor did anything like that in a Canadian province he would probably be charged with interfering in party politics and the welkin would ring with a cry for his official head.

A prominent Ohio Presbyterian pastor who always has a large evening congregation, without resorting to any sensational methods, was asked how he managed it. He replied, "I place the evening services upon the consciences of my people, insisting that the evening service is a witness of the church to the world, and the people accept the obligation and come." That is splendid, says the Michigan Presbyterian; but suppose the people do not accept the responsibility and still do not attend the evening service, what then? There must be a difference in consciences as well as in congregations.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden calls the attention of the powers to a treaty negotiated in 1855, after the Crimean war, by which both Great Britain and France engaged to furnish Sweden and Norway with naval and military forces to resist any aggressions of Russia, and which binds these countries not to cede territory or coast privileges to Russia. Sweden regards this treaty of great importance on account of the fear that Russia may seek to get the Norwegian territory north of

Sweden. France might seek to evade the obligation, but Great Britain would probably respect it. The treaty is really more important to Norway, since it protects its coast territory. It is not likely that for a good many years to come Russia will indulge in territorial aggression.

The Bible is receiving continually fresh confirmation as a reliable record of events from the investigation of archaeologists. One of the latest is to be put to the credit of Professor Petrie, a recognized authority on Egyptian antiquities. It is well known, says the Christian Intelligencer, that after the fall of Jerusalem under Nebuchadnezzar, Jeremiah went with or was taken by the opponents of the Babylonian rule down to Egypt where he ended his prophetic career and his life. In obedience to the command of Jehovah the prophet "took great stones and laid them in mortar in the brick work which is at the entry of Pharaoh's house in Tahpanhes." It has now been the fortune of Professor Petrie to lay bare this very pavement, in a mound which to this day bears the name of the Fort of the Jew's Daughter.

We noted that the result of the last Zionist Congress was a vote determining the policy of the organization to be for Palestine as the only goal which it could accept. We noted, too, the withdrawal of the Socialistic element. Another element now has followed the Socialists. The rejection of the offer of territory in Uganda, in which to organize a Jewish state under the protectorate of England, was not pleasing to a wing of the Zionists under the leadership of Israel Zangwill. These have now organized in London the Jewish Territorial Organization, which has for its object the formation of an autonomous Jewish state, preferably under English rule, where it will have a chance of success. The Zionist element in the scheme is entirely dropped. It does not appeal to religious hopes or enthusiasm, but to national pride, and is to help solve the great problem of the Jews in Russia.

The apologists of the liquor traffic, in lieu of better argument, when cornered by facts, protest that closing up saloons and hotel bars, would kill business and increase taxes, etc., etc. Here is a nut to crack, furnished by a Western paper, which demonstrates the exact opposite:

"In North Dakota there is prohibition, while in Minnesota there is not. On the border stand the towns of Fargo and West Grand Forks in North Dakota, and just opposite to them in Minnesota are Moorhead and East Grand Forks. It was prophesied that prohibition in North Dakota would ruin its border towns and build up those in Minnesota. Just the opposite has been the case. In East Grand Forks there are forty-two saloons, an assessed valuation of \$384,000 of property and bonded indebtedness of twenty-five per cent with floating debt of \$50,000. In West Grand Forks (prohibition territory) there is an assessed valuation of \$3,500,000, with a bonded debt of 8 1/2 per cent. East Grand Forks derives \$10,000 a year from the saloons, and yet the taxes in the latter are twenty per cent lower than in the former, though the latter has made extensive improvements which the former has not. It is ever so. It pays any town to banish saloons." What a blessing would flow to thousands of people in Ottawa if the liquor shops and hotel bars were closed.