## Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

England agreed to pay the Boers for ertain losses in the Transvaal war. The theer chims amount 11 to $\$ 310,000,000$. The sum of $\$ 47,500,000$ has been allowed, and the incident is closed.

The author of "The Simple Life" while in America spoke in Presbyterian, Episcopalian. Methodist, Unitarian, Congregacopalian. Methodist,
tional, and Baptist churches, and also in tional, and Baptist
"The Scote' Churches in England" is the title of a volume to be published in May by Mr. K. Macleod Black, a grandson of the late Rev. Dr. Edmond. Highbury, and a nephew of the late Mr. W llian Black, the well-known novelist.

The general introduction of street cars in English towns has diminished the consumption of beer. Workingmen on their way home to the suburbs in the evening are now carried pact saloons at which they used to linger.

Growth in Tapan-The increase in Chris tians during the year 1904 is about 10 per cent. In round numbers the Christians of Japan-Protestant, Roman Catholic and Greek-number about 154,000 church members, with a community of about 450,000 .

The offer on our last page is an exceptionally good one. and only stands for a few weeks. The Dominion Presbyterian and The Pilgrim for $\$ 1.50$ to new terian and The Pilgrim for 81.50 to new
subscribers; and a copy of The Pilgrim subscribers; and a copy of The Pingrim
one year to the party sending in name and money.
"As my own very imperfect life draws towards the sunset," writes Dr. Cuyler. "I must say to my younger brethren that whatever of good I may have wrought through the press. the eweetest ioy of my pastorates was the privilege of receiving two thousand soule into Christ's flock on confession of their faith in Him."

The terrible explosion in the collieries at Courrieres, France, in which $1,000 \mathrm{~min}$ ers lost their lives, brought an expression of sympathy from a shocked world. The French Government is doing all that money can do for the fiste hundred stricken homes.

The Juvenile Smoking Bill, which Dr. Macnamana has introduced into the English Parliament, provides that no persons shall sell, give. or supply tobacco in any form to, or for the use of any person under the age of sixteen years under penalties of 20 s . on a first conviction, 40 s . on a second conviction, and in case of a third conviction the license of a tobacconist would be revoked.

The pilgrimage to Mecea will koon bo tobed of much of its so-called merit and robhed of much of its so-called merit and
myetery, when it can be accomplished on mystery, when that is now graded beyond the half-way line between Damascus and the sacred city. We presume, anys the Presbyterian Standard, the iron monster will follow the old pilgrimage highway. The Imperial Government has ordered the necessary plant for large engineering works a Damascus.

An English Church reader of the British Weekly writes: May I suggest with all earnestness the desirability of republishing in a cheap form for wide distribution Jan Maclaren's noble sermon on "The Mag nificence of the Divine Grace." Its broad minded and charitable outlook, its spiritnal insight, and its felicitous though homely expression. entitle it to mak very high among contemporary discourses. The man who gets another man to read it is doing good work for Christianity.

Miss Kuyper, daughter of Rev. Dr. A. Kuyper. Holland's former Presbyterian Prime Minister, denjes most positively that Queen Wilhelmina and Prince Henry are uncongenial. The impression that they are not rests in the slander of a coach man who was dismissed, and who sought revenge by selling as news in England a cruel falsehood.

The sovereign who reins over the smallest monarchy in the world is the King of the Cocos, a group of islands near Sumatra. These islands were discovered about three hundred years ago, but were comparatively little known until 1825, when Mr. Ross, an Englishman, visited them was struck by their beauty and took up his abode there. It is his grandson. George Reiss, who now holds sway over the Cocos.

During the wedding festivities of King Alfonso of Spain and the Princess Ena of Battenberg, Madrid will be transformed into a gigantic garden of flowers. Roses and pinks will be brought by hundreds of waggon-loads from Seville, Malaga, Valwagh, Alicante, and Murcia. Grand proencia, A sescions in chacter will be ormanised by cessions in character will be organised ay the students and women cigar makers, and
the charming national dances will be per-
formed by peasants from the provinces. formed by peasants from the provinces. Streams of white and red wine will flow from the fountains of Madrid in lieu of water on the day of the wedding.

The Syrian Protestant College was openedt in 1866 as a Christian college. Its aim is to educate the Syrians and those of the adjacent countries. It is a missionary college, but not connected with any hoard. Last year there were 750 studenta. There were ninety Armenians, sixty Greeks, 150 Egyptians, but the majority are Syrians. There are about 100 Moslems, forty. Jews. thirty Druzes, 300 belong to the Greek Catholic church, 100 Roman Catholics, and about 120 are Protestants. There nre about fifty teachers. The college has forty about fifty teachers. The college has iuding acres. with fourteen buildings, including hospitals and a training sehool for nurses. The college is exerting a potent influence upon Syria and the neighboring countries.

Hundreds and thousands of the people in the northern provinces of Japan are starving,, and reduced to the eating of the roots and shrubs and the bark of trees. The public schools have been closed. The government have suspended the current taxes. But even so the conditions are desperate. The famine shows in the first place how terribly poor are the mass of the Japanese people-so poor that the failure of a single crop brings starvation to hun dreds of thousands. It also shows how reticent the Japanese can be. There have been no tragic appeals. Canada has albeen no tragic appeass. Clleviate the dis ready done something to alleviate the dis-
tress, and is doing more. But the cry is tress, and is doing more.
urgent, and the need great.

The disputed point whether Charles Kingsley's poem "The Sande of Dee"re. ferred to the river in Cheshire or Scotland has been settled by his daughter. To a Chester correspondent Miss Kingsley writes: "Not only did my father tell me writes: "Not only was written about the Chester the poem was written about the
Dee, but a moment's thought. I should Dee. but a moment's thought. Ioshould have supposed. wonld show those who claim the poem for Scotland that they are in error if they read the first and en flows
verses carefullv. The Stottish Dee flows to the east. How, therefore, would it he possible for the western wind to bring up the western tide? Also, the poem was written in 1849, and at that time my faWritten in 1849, and at foot in Scotland. ther had nerer set owhich our familv though Cheshire, from which our famive came originally, was well known to him by study an
vation."

The French Government has introduced a Sunday stamp-"le timbre dominical," which is to be used like our special delivery stamps, for delivery on Sunday. Letters not sufficiently important to cail Letters not sufficiently important this extra postage will be held until for this extra postage will be held until
Monday. Belgium has already a prohibitive stamp,reading: "Not to be delivered on Sunday."
John Miexander Dowie, at present in Ocotlan. Mexico, who has been deposed by his followers in Zion City. Ill.. an nounces that he has officially dismiswed the overseers who have deposed him and taken all necessary legal steps to protect his estate and the vast interests of Zion. and that he will return to Zion immeand that he will return to zon imme-
diately. Firom all reports he will not rediately. From all reports he will not re-
ceive a warm weleome from the new lenders in his erstwhile capital.
It is not without significance that the World's Sunday School Convention next year is to be held in Rome. That city has ever been the stronghold of Roman Ca . tholicism. There under the shadows of the vatican. that magnificent assemblage of religious edifices, and at the seat of papal authority and power. representatives of the Protestant religious bodies of the of the Protestant religious bodies of the world will convene in the interests of
Christ's Kinedom. We wonder what the Christ's Kinedom. We wonder what the attitude of the Pone will be on that occa-
sion. There are reasons for the belief sion. There are reasone for the belief
that it mav be such as to increase hone to those who look with eager anticipation forward to a time when the great barriers separating Roman Catholicism and Protestantism will be broken down. Such in dicatione are only slight now. But this is God's world, not man's.

At Sefton Park Church, Livernool, recently, Dr. Wateon nreached on the character of Jacob, which he comnared to the great problem-charncters of history. such as Charles I. and Oliver Cromwell, on which peonle can never agree. He moint ed out that the motive power of Tacob's life was the search for God. "The Inferno is not for Jacob. for he would travel the length and breadth of its provinces seeking to find out God. Neither may he enter the Paradiso with those sadly heter the Paradiso with those sadly he
smirched earments. Jacoh must stay smirched carments. Jacoh must stay
awhile in the Purgatorio for the salvation awhile in the Purgatorio for the salvation
of his soul." The preacher rehearsed the tale of Jacob's sufferings, his iustification. and his death-bed, "one of the most insniring things in Christian biogranhe. "One of the greatest triumnhs of divine crace," said Tan Maclaren. "is the straight. ening out of the crookendess in man."

The Rev. J. B. Silcox of Toronto. said recently in a letter to a California friend. nartions of which have been published in the Pacific Presbyterian that some of the greatest preaching ever heard by him al-nz pvangelistic lines was be the Rev. Dr. W I. Dawson. who was in Toronto a few dave not long ago. "It gets hold of vour heart. and grins your conscience, and influences cour imagination, and drives you to vour knees in penitence and praver." Writing of his own work. Dr. Silcox savs that he of has a big Street Church of Toronto. It is the Bond stree (haseh and has a deht of a down-town church. and ha a debt of $\$ 20,000$. When Dr. Silcox trok charge the church was renorted to have a memhershiv of 746. Revision of the roll and diligent starch gives them about 250 that can ha relied on. The church anditorium will seat about 1.600, and Dr. Sileos has an evening attendance which fills it. but he writes that in the judgment of some of wre hest men of the ritr it is thour ${ }^{2}$ t the the work cannot be continued. O that the C analism in general in Canad Congreartionalise it is very weak, and he Dr. Silcox sill he a good thing when the adds: "It will he a and Congrema Preshertarian Mana unite in one church."
tionalists of Canada

