

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

The debt of some £20,000 on Dublin University College has been cleared by public subscription.

The Foreign Mission Committee has definitely decided with regard to the Jewish work in Montreal that for the future this work will be left entirely in the hands of the London Mission Society for the further advancement of the Jews.

A private despatch from Vereeniging is to the effect that at their conference the Boers had voted for peace on the best terms that could be procured, and that they had instructed their delegates to Pretoria accordingly.

The Waldensian Church in Italy gained eleven hundred members last year, and is reaching eighty thousand Italians through its hundred and fifty workers. Italy may yet be reformed by the faith that never was deformed. And Waldensian is the Italian way of spelling Presbyterian.

There is still much anxiety over the state of health of Lord Pauncefoot, the British Ambassador, but his medical attendants assert that there is no immediate danger. The American people are evincing sincere solicitude over him, for he has been a most welcome and agreeable representative. They would greatly regret if he was compelled to retire from the post he has so adorned and so beneficently filled.

The following inscription has been placed on the monument erected at Balmoral in memory of the late Queen Victoria:—"To the beloved memory of her late most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, Sovereign of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India. This obelisk was erected by the tenants and servants on the estates of Balmoral, Aberfeldie and Birkhall."

"Homes in the Stars," is the title of a new book, soon to appear, by the Rev. Joseph Hamilton of Mimico. It is said to set forth the wonders of astronomy in such a fascinating way as to make it a book for all classes of readers, and at the same time it has discussions which appeal to the most profound. It is on the same lines as a former book by the same author, which was made a prize book of the Science and Art Education Council of England.

M. Ducretet, repeating the experiments of Bourbouze, made in 1876, has lately endeavored, with success, to transmit human speech through ordinary telephones, using the earth as the only conductor. The results are very interesting, though difficult to explain. One thing is certain, says the experimenter, namely, that earth filters out, so to say, the continuous current necessary to the operation of the apparatus. This current is diffused into many others capable of actuating a certain number of telephones distributed around the transmitter, and in the experiments cited these diffused currents were strong enough to operate a relay with a call-bell.

The revolt in Russia is now attributed to famine, which occurs almost perennially there, and the mojiks have now got it into their heads that the Government is responsible.

Prof. Harper, D.D., of St. Andrew's College, Sydney, son-in-law of Principal Rainy, has been nominated for the office of Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Queen Wilhemina of Holland has now got the turn, and no doubt is entertained that she will soon completely recover, and may be long spared to her subjects, by all of whom she is greatly beloved.

The German Ministers of War and Agriculture have published an offer for first, second and third prizes of 10,000 marks, 5,000 marks, and 2,500 marks, respectively, for the best alcohol motors for military usages. The offer is a result of the initiative of Emperor William who has long been interested in alcohol motors and engines. He is convinced of the possible economical use of such motors for the transportation of military supplies and the moving of artillery. German farmers are interested in the idea because alcohol is made from potatoes.

The Earl of Hopetoun has resigned the Governor-Generalship of the new Australian Commonwealth, to take effect immediately after King Edward's coronation. The Earl was the first Governor General, and was sworn in at Sydney on 1st January, 1901. His salary is £10,000 a year. That, he says, is inadequate, and that the position causes a heavy drain upon his private resources. He wished the Federal Parliament to increase his allowance by £3,000 a year, but it has refused to do so. His resignation has been accepted by the Colonial Secretary.

In his recent speech to the Primrose League in London Premier Lord Salisbury emphasized the importance of doing nothing to force the various portions of the British Empire into closer union than already exists, and it would appear that the Premiers of Canada and Australia quite agree with him in this. In particular, the latter think it inadvisable that there should be a hard and fast military agreement between Britain and her colonies.

There is reason to believe that no fundamental patent for wireless telegraphy will hold in this country. There are several patents which antedate Marconi's involving the principles he uses. There are more recent patents which do not use his system. The principles on which wireless telegraphy rest have been discovered by scientific investigators through a long series of years. Many men have contributed something, but no person has made an invention which entitles him to a control of the principle, though numerous details will be covered by patents. The Bell Telephone Company controlled a scientific principle for many years, but this will probably be the last instance in which the courts will give any one a monopoly of the use of the forces of nature.

According to a census taken there are 17,180 Hebrews in India. Scarcely one-third of them are European. The rest are descendants of those who claim to have emigrated to India during the reign of Solomon.

The Boers are not fighting for their independence, but to deprive British colonists of theirs. They invaded British territory after lengthened secret preparation, with the avowed intention to "drive the British into the sea."

The American Congregationalist sent a delegation to visit their missions in India. The delegation has returned, and their report is encouraging. Christianity, they say, is making rapid progress in India. Statistics show that while the population of India increased 20 per cent. in the period from 1851 to 1891, the number of Protestant Christians increased 145 per cent. Caste, India's greatest barrier to Christianity, is breaking down. In one school the commissioners found children of eighteen different castes living and eating together. A few years ago this would have been impossible. The attitude of the Hindoo people towards Christianity is becoming increasingly friendly. Among the causes which account for this has been the generous assistance of the Christian nations during the Indian famines and the care of the famine orphans in the mission schools.

The one matter of vital importance to the Church at large this year before the United States General Assembly is the report of the Creed Committee. This comes up shortly when there will be a stirring debate on the subject. What the outcome will be we cannot tell, but it is more than likely that the report will be sent down to the Presbyteries for their acceptance or rejection. The new creed is composed of sixteen articles under the following heads: (1) On the Being of God. (2) The Word of God the only infallible rule of faith and life. (3) Creation. (4) Fall of man. (5) Salvation only by grace. (6) Salvation of all who die in infancy and those beyond the reach of the outward means of grace. (7) The eternal decrees. (8) Confession of Christ. (9) Faith and repentance. (10) The work of the Holy Spirit. (11) Regeneration. (12) Resurrection. (13) The Law of God. (14) Church and Sacraments. (15) Last Judgment. (16) Christ's Second Coming.

The friends of the late Professor A. B. Davidson, of New College, Edinburgh, have agreed to raise a memorial fund for the purpose of placing a stone with a medallion of his well-known face over the professor's grave in the Grange Cemetery, where he lies near Chalmers and Guthrie and Hugh Miller, and also of purchasing his library as the nucleus of an Oriental collection in the college so long associated with his name and work. The scheme has the approval and cordial support of scholars in England and Scotland, including Dr. Driver, the Bishops of Exeter and Worcester, the Professors of Hebrew in the Scottish Universities, and many representative men in his own Church and the Free Churches of England.