

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

Documents discovered by the European troops in Pekin are said to claim that Mongolian missionaries discovered America centuries before Columbus was born.

Over forty cases of enteric fever have occurred at Plymouth. Glasgow is now free from plague. An outbreak, believed to be plague, is reported among natives in Cape Colony.

British treasury estimates show that for every burgher conquered in the Transvaal war England must pay \$10,000 in war expenses. It will prove the most expensive war in history.

Dr. Chamberlain, inspector of prisons and charities, intimates that the charges made against the method of conducting the blind institute at Brantford have not been proved.

The oldest mummy hitherto found has reached the British Museum from Egypt. It is that of a fair-haired, intelligent looking man, and experts say he may have lived 10,000 years ago.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad Company are about to start work on a new bridge over the Red river, near Winnipeg. It is to have three spans of 240 ft. each, but the estimated cost is not stated.

On the eve of his departure for Australia the Duke of York, who is at present a captain in the Royal Navy, will be promoted to the rank of rear-admiral in the service to which he has belonged since he was a boy.

Dr. Hillis is preaching a series of sermons on the subject, "What is left of Christianity now that the critical epoch has passed?" That enterprising paper, The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, is publishing them every Monday.

A new law which has just come into force in Germany enacts that persons who through drunkenness are unable to manage their own affairs and take care of their families may lose their legal rights and be proclaimed minors.

It is pointed out by Hon. Mr. Bernier, Minister of Inland Revenue, that among the members elected to serve in the next Parliament from Quebec there are 16 English-speaking Protestants, which reflects great credit upon that province.

A case of trance, for duration without a parallel in medical science, is reported from Newcastle (England). For eight months a male inmate of the infirmary has been lying quite helpless, and for the most part unconscious. He is kept alive by liquid nourishment administered by a stomach pump.

Rev. Murdo Mackenzie, in addressing the Free North Church congregation, Iwerness, said his relationship to the brethren of the United Church would be as in the past—he would receive them as beloved brethren, opening his pulpit for them, and ready to come and occupy their pulpits when they asked him. That statement has given very considerable satisfaction to all parties to the Union dispute.

Crathie church, in which the Queen worships when at Balmoral, is now a fine, modern building. The old church, which was pulled down a few years ago and replaced by the present building, was a most interesting edifice of the plainest description. The horseshoe gallery, which included all the "seats of the mighty," held the Queen's pew, and the Prince of Wales' (the Abergeildie pew), which was generally occupied by the Prince.

A contract to build the Pacific Cable has been made on behalf of Great Britain and the colonies interested, Canada New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand, with the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, for £1,175,000.

Madame Sarah Grand has undertaken to visit the United States and give a series of lectures in the leading cities. She is sure of success, inasmuch as American women give very serious attention to social problems, and will naturally be eager to listen to so eloquent an advocate of reform as Madame Sarah Grand.

The Canadian Gazette in London speaks of lacrosse as the favorite winter game in Canada. They should keep a real, living Canadian on that paper to explain things to the editor. For the benefit of the man in the moon we will explain, remarks the Toronto Star, that lacrosse is the hottest hot weather game in the world.

Sir William Huggins, K. C. B., the astronomer, has been elected president of the Royal Society, in succession to Lord Lister. His special work has been in stellar photography at his private observatory, at Tulse Hill. For the last twenty-five years he has been engaged in obtaining photographs of the ultra-violet portion of the spectra of the stars.

The Chinese minister at Washington, in an important recent address, paid a hearty tribute to missionaries, and at the same time urged on all foreigners a greater consideration in dealing with his countrymen. "Chinese customs and manners are not necessarily bad," said he mildly, "and foreign ways are not always the best."

Lord Wolseley shows great decision of character in small matters. Although an inveterate smoker for many years, he gave it up at a moment's notice, feeling that the appetite for it was getting a mastery over him. One morning during the Egyptian campaign of 1885 he resolved to smoke no more, and he has rigidly adhered to his determination ever since.

Protestant visitors to Oberammergau who have been moved by Josef Mayer's devout impersonation of Christ, will be ineffably disgusted by the fashion of the Pope's recognition of his supposed service to the Church of Rome. Mr. L. C. Morant, in "The Nineteenth Century," says the Pope has bestowed on Mayer a pardon, not only for all his own sins, past, present and future, but also for those of all his children.

Lady Hermion Blackwood, daughter of the Earl of Dufferin and Ava, has now given full proof of the genuineness of her "vocation" to hospital nursing—a pursuit which has never before been undertaken by the daughter of a peer in such a serious fashion. She has been for a full year at the London hospital, doing the same work as the other probationers—not exclusive of the housework, to which so many lady probationers object, and has given full satisfaction to the authorities. The career she has chosen, involves, of course, the practical relinquishment of her rank, and Lady Hermion is known at the "London" simply as "Nurse Blackwood."

The express from Paris to Madrid, while travelling at the rate of seventy-three miles an hour, was precipitated down a steep embankment between Bayonne and Dax. Of the thirty-four passengers in the train, all but four were lurching at the time in the restaurant car. Seventeen were killed, including the Peruvian Minister. His wife had both legs broken and her maid was killed. Many others were terribly injured. The car had to be literally broken up before the bodies could be extricated. A London commercial traveller, named Hawke, was amongst the killed. Valuable jewels belonging to an injured lurcher were found amongst the debris.

Preachers in New York were lately addressed by the committee in charge of a vacant pulpit. They were evidently business men, in the habit of saying plainly just what they wanted. Their request was to be informed of the 'lowest terms' for which he would engage to give 'two eloquent and instructive sermons on the Sunday, and one secular lecture in the middle of the week. Another clergyman, who had benevolently consented at the eleventh hour to take the place of one who had been engaged to deliver a special sermon, came to grief by allowing his MS. to be printed without revision by himself. It chanced to be an old sermon, on which he had jotted down, as ministers do, the places and dates of its delivery on various occasions. These were all faithfully displayed in print, together with the text, at the head of the column.

Referring to the probability of Sir Wilfrid Laurier being able to represent Canada at the ceremonies inaugurating the Australian Commonwealth in May next, the Citizen says: "Though the Citizen has not seen eye to eye with the premier in all matters political, it is not blind to his eminent abilities and peculiar fitness, both personal and official, to serve Canada and the Empire upon the occasion, so big with fate to its several portions, of the federation of the British possessions beneath the Southern Cross. We have no doubt that Sir Wilfrid, should he be able to undertake the task, will represent Canada with such grace and wisdom as will win him new honors and this country new influence in the councils of empire." Coming from a paper that did all in its power, during the elections, to defeat Sir Wilfrid's government, this is high praise indeed.

The recent death of Charles Dudley Warner the kindly American essayist and author, reminds a subscriber to the Monetary Times of a visit he paid to Toronto some years ago. He was travelling in Canada at the time, and W. H. Howland induced him to go out to Mimico and turn the first sod of one of the school buildings. Throwing off his cloak, Mr. Warner took the spade and cut a sod. Then, leaning on his spade and looking at the sod, he said with a kindly smile: "My friends, this is not a house, but there is going to be a house on this spot, I feel sure of that—and a good home-like house. The very life of such a place as this Industrial School is the love that pervades it; the kindly personal interest, the individual care. That is what will draw, like a lodestone, these young hearts to better things. The moment you begin to institutionalize these lads, that moment you lessen your hold on them. A prison taint, a reformatory taint, is not only bad for them inwardly. They need a home life, a pure home training, and this it is they have mostly been bereft of; this I can see, you strive here to restore. It will bear fruit in the coming years."

Every bibliophile mentally adds to the Litany the petition, "From the book-borrower, good Lord, deliver us." There is evidence in Rev. G. Campbell Morgan's recent discourse on the Eighth Commandment that he has suffered much at the book-borrower's hands. It is to be feared he spoils the Sunday sense of comfort by self-satisfaction of some of his hearers when, expounding the Commandment against stealing, he said: "Even in most respectable and moral society, however, some forms of common theft have come to be looked upon as regrettable lapses, rather than sin against God. One illustration will suffice. It would be interesting, but extremely painful, to pass through the homes of thousands of Church members, instituting all a rigid examination as to the ownership of all the books to be found therein. The habit of borrowing books is in itself pernicious, but the appalling extent of the carelessness as to the return of the same is hardly realised, because people forget that to borrow a book and not to return it is a theft. If these sentences should cause the discovery of some of my books, and they are returned to me, I shall be for ever grateful for having had this opportunity of enforcing the eighth Commandment."