

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment.

The House of Commons passed the appropriation of \$80,000 for the purchase of the Plains of Abraham at Quebec.

Morocco has agreed to give France satisfaction for the murder of a French painter by pirates and to settle all questions affecting Algeria.

The publishers of Hall Caine's serial, "The Eternal City," have sued him for \$5,000 because they complain that the story is immoral, and Mr. Caine refuses to rewrite the conclusion in accordance with their objections.

The London correspondent of a Scotch paper thinks it is time to enter a protest against the familiarity of the London newspapers, which speak of Sir Hector Macdonald as "Mac." It is quite, he says, on a par with their offensive references to Burns as 'Bobbie'.

The Rev. Dr. D. G. Matthews, secretary of the Pan-Presbyterian Alliance, received a cordial welcome at a late meeting of the London Presbyterian Synod, on his recovery from a severe illness. Dr. Matthews was for several years a resident of Quebec, and is well known in Canada.

The argument which convinced the Chinese Government that it was advisable to agree to the indemnity of 450,000,000 taels (\$337,000,000) was threat to assess it \$1,000,000 per day for the maintenance of foreign troops in Peking after June 1, if the matter was not settled by that time.

Queen Victoria's memory is to be kept green by a birthday book. This will comprise an anthology of sentences spoken or written by her late Majesty. Mr. Ernest G. Harmer, who has compiled the book, has found quotations which will apply more or less to every day of the year.

Siam feels throughout her extent the thrill of her contact with western civilization. The telegraph circuit binds her to the Christian world. The postal system is extending from the capital, Bangkok, the "Venice of the Orient," to the bounds of the kingdom. Bicycles are quite common. Hats, shoes and stockings are generally used, and even common houses are being furnished with at least one chair and a table.

The rush to Europe this year is already great, and the agents of the transatlantic steamship line predict that this season's travel will be unprecedented as to the number of passengers and the rates of transportation. The minimum rate in many cases has risen to one hundred dollars, but this seems to be no discouragement. Prosperous times, a general feeling of optimism in business, and other similar reasons account for the exodus in large measure, and the desire to visit the Glasgow Exhibition also has its effect.

A visitor to Cuba speaks very hopefully of the Protestant movement there. The natives are much attracted by the Free Church forms of religion, and especially by the Congregationalists and Baptists, whose services are thronged, and whose form of government they call "the Liberty Religion." The field is spoken of as "white unto harvest."

A correspondent of the Scottish American Journal, who has been on a trip to Calgary, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, notes with some curiosity several station names that caught his eye—Kin-corth, Carstairs, Cluny, Southesk, Strathmore, Airdrie, Mortlach, Boharm; these names, he says, being in strange conjunction with others of a more local color, such as Moose Jaw and Medicine Hat.

The Canadian government, says the Scottish American Journal, in refusing to interfere with the contemplated monument to General Montgomery, our Revolutionary hero who died at the siege of Quebec, shows admirable good sense and brotherly feeling. Montgomery was a gallant gentleman, and there is no reason why he should not be admired, even by a subject of King Edward.

In Inverness Presbytery Dr. Black gave notice of motion providing for the removal of Rev. Roderick Finlayson, of Daviot, and Rev. Donald McLean, of Moy, from the list of ministers, they having absented themselves from the Presbytery since October, and having notoriously followed divisive courses in the interval. The motion includes the name of Rev. Murdo Mackenzie, North Church, Inverness, but provides that consideration of his case shall be delayed.

A high tribute was paid to the British nurses by Lord Roberts, who said, in a South African despatch:—"I find it difficult to express the deep gratitude with which the Nursing Sisterhood has inspired all ranks serving in South Africa. The devotion, skill, courage and endurance displayed by the army nursing service, and by kindred organizations from the Colonies, have excited my admiration and justified the opinion that I hold as to the necessity and economy to the service of an ample nursing service for our army."

Sir Alfred Milner, as High Commissioner in Cape Colony during the past four years, has occupied one of the most difficult and responsible positions in the Imperial Civil Service. Naturally he is most cordially hated by the Boers, and by many political enemies at home. But he has been received in London with the most fulsome eulogies. King Edward has elevated him to the peerage, Lord Salisbury has given him great praise, and Mr. Chamberlain commends him for his keen insight into political affairs, and for his dauntless courage and resolution. Lord Milner will go back to Cape Town animated by the noble purpose to bring about an amicable co-operation between the British and Dutch in South Africa.

An interesting literary discovery is reported from Oxford, where a number of hitherto unknown poems by King James I. have been found in the Bodleian Library. They are stated to be undoubtedly genuine, and bear the Royal autograph.

At a meeting last week of the ministers who took part in the recent combined Christian movement in London it was reported that the meetings had been successful in bringing representatives of the various denominations in the city to know and trust each other, and to show their unity to the community at large.

The most important event of the year 1809-1900 in Greece was the finding in Crète of the vast Mycenaean palace at Cnossus, with its corridors, store chambers, throne room, east and west courts, frescoes and library of clay tablets in Mycenaean characters. In Asia Minor the work at Priene has been finished. That begun at Miletus promises well and has already yielded inscriptions. At Ephesus a Greek monumental gateway was found which combines lintel and arch construction.

An Englishman, says an "Express" Alexandria correspondent, is carrying on one of the most extraordinary trades in the world in Port Said. He has a gigantic warehouse of coloured pictures representing Biblical stories, suitable for any nationality. Thus the story of the prodigal son is represented in 30 different ways. The personalities are suited to the nationality from the almond-eyed Chinaman to the negro of Central Africa. The average sale has been from 70,000 to 100,000 copies in a year.

Rev. Professor Orr delivered a lecture recently in St. John's Church, Dundee, on "The Bearings of Recent Discovery on the New Testament," in which he argued that all the discoveries made confirmed the authenticity of the New Testament and corrected the charges of inaccuracy. He did not know of a single discovery in recent years that had not tended in the direction of removing the difficulties and strengthening and corroborating the truth and genuineness of the documents of the New Testament.

An important addition to the defenses of the Rock of Gibraltar has been made recently, says the Daily London Telegraph correspondent. Four huge reservoirs have been cut out of the side of the rock above Willis' Road and capable of storing some 5,000,000 gallons of water, which, in any possible event of siege, would be invaluable to the garrison. Even for present use a pure supply of water is at hand, enough to fulfill the wants of the place in the driest of years, and to spare even then. Each tank, by means of wire gauze over the inlets and exits, can be made mosquito-proof, thus preventing this pest, prevalent in the hot weather, from introducing any germs of disease as supposed under the new theory.