

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Not long ago Dr. Handley Carr Glyn Moule Bishop of Durham, Eng., preached in a Presbyterian church at Gateshead. A newspaper correspondent speaks in warm terms of the ability and evangelical character of his sermon.

Canada is becoming a land of many languages. In the Northwest Presbytery of Minnedosa, the gospel is preached in seven languages: English, Gaelic, Sioux, Saultaux, Galician, Doukhobor and Hungarian. The three latter people are making good progress in learning English.

Rev. Dr. Bancroft Devins, of New York, who has been on a tour around the world, and has spent some time in the Philippines, gives, in *The New York Observer*, quite full accounts of the missionary work being done in the islands, especially in Manila and Luzon. The Presbyterians and Methodists are most active and aggressive there and are meeting with encouraging success.

Theatrical companies are complaining that this is the worst year for their business that is on record. Some three thousand of their members are out of employment at present. More theatres are closed, companies stranded or disbanded, and more actors and actresses unemployed than ever known before, according to their statements. This, says the *Herald and Presbytery*, may indicate a return to sanity on the part of the people.

Dr. W. H. Hamil, in the *New York S. S. Times*, says of the Canadian General Assembly's Teacher Training course: "The Canadian Presbyterians, profiting by the blunders and successes of other churches, erected, in 1902, a system nearly faultless in its details, that is already becoming a power in that church. For thoroughly good work, carefulness of supervision, and ability of the men in charge, the Canadian Presbyterians are easily leading the way."

In a letter to the Rev. W. T. McCormick, of Bournemouth, Eng., Lord Roberts says:—"I have often seen the pernicious effects of over smoking, and I should be glad if boys could be prevented from indulging in the habit until they are grown up." Why should not boys have sense enough themselves to appreciate the dangers involved in learning to smoke while young? Why, indeed, should they ever learn so dirty and expensive a habit?

The total number of ordained missionaries in the foreign field is 5,863. Of these, 1,999 are from America; 2,017 are from Great Britain; and 910 are from Germany and the Netherlands. In addition to these there are more than six hundred missionaries that are not credited to any of these countries. They are marked as from Asia, from Africa, from the Islands of the Sea. This, says the *Christian Observer*, is a beautiful fruitage of the mission work; that lands which have

themselves but recently been evangelized should send such a host as six hundred ministers into the parts beyond.

According to "The Christian World" the clergy at St. David's Cathedral, in Wales, have declared war against the threepenny piece. All coins of that value put into the collections "are exported from the district; and as the nearest town is nearly twenty miles away, there is a great dearth of threepenny pieces. It is stated that since the adoption of the policy there has been a decided increase not merely in the number of sixpences, but in silver coins of the larger values. The cathedral clergy have evidently taken for their motto, *Bis dat qui sixpence dat.*"

The Scottish correspondent of the *Belfast Witness* informs that paper that at the present time there is an old gentleman living in Edinburgh who remembers Sir Walter Scott. Many a time he has seen him passing along Shandwick Place, and he recalls that the novelist used to walk with his stick pressed against his knee. Another interesting reminiscence is the opening of the Presbyterian Church in Galway some time in the thirties of last century, a ceremony at which he was present with the officers and men of his regiment. Very quaint are his stories of Galway in that long past time, and indeed of many other parts of Ireland too. He also watched the departure of the first steamer from Cork Harbour bound for America?

There are 13,000,000 children enrolled in the Sunday Schools of the United States, only 3,000,000 less than are enrolled in the public schools of that country. Noting these facts the *Presbyterian Banner* say: "The fact that such a tremendous number and large proportion of the children and young people of the country are in the Sunday school receiving religious instruction is one of great significance. It is a rich asset in our wealth, a strong safeguard of our institutions, a solid foundation for our republic, an assurance of the permanence and growth of the Church, and a ground of optimism for the future. We would rather be proud of such a fact and pin our faith to it than put our trust in great armies and powerful warships. Out of these thirteen millions will come the men and women that will be the strength and safeguard of the nation."

The *Presbyterian Banner* notes that between fifty and a hundred churches in Chicago have been ordered closed until they comply with the requirements as to exits. The Second Presbyterian had to make some changes, and the large Third Presbyterian has been closed. That paper says the measures taken—since the Iniquis theatre fire—may be extreme, but admits that "it is a good time for churches to be examined as to their condition in view of fire." An eminent architect is quoted as saying that he cannot recall an instance of a church fire attended with a panic or a loss of life, but he recommends care at three points; the heating arrangements, the electric wiring, and the accumulation of rubbish in the cellar. "The house of God should be a safe place physically as well as morally and spiritually."

The safety of the Canadian missionaries at the seat of war in the far east is now practically assured, thanks to the intervention of the British authorities. Hon. R. W. Scott, secretary of state, received a cable from Mr. John Newell Jordan, C.M.G., British minister resident and consul-general at Seoul, Corea, stating that Rev. D. MacRae and Mrs. MacRae and Miss K. McMillan, M.D., who were at Ham Heung, had arrived at Wonsan, and that Rev. A. F. Robb and family hoped shortly to reach Wonsan from Song Chai. Wonsan is the chief treaty port on the east coast of Corea and there is ample naval force there to ensure the safety of all foreign residents.

Senator Wark, of Fredricton, N.B., completed last Saturday his one hundredth birthday, receiving many congratulations on the unique event; among others one from His Gracious Majesty King Edward, through His Excellency the Governor General. Sir Wilfred Laurier also wired good wishes on his own behalf, as well as for his colleagues. Senator Wark has been for thirty-five years a member of the Canadian Senate, having been appointed in May, 1867. He was born at Londonderry, Ireland, but is of Scottish descent, his parents having come from Scottish families who settled in Ulster in the seventeenth century. He emigrated to New Brunswick in 1825, and rose rapidly in the business world. From 1858 to 1862 he was a member of the Executive Council of New Brunswick, and was also Receiver General, which office he resigned on taking his seat in the Senate. He is a staunch Presbyterian. Last year the government offered Senator Wark a private car to bring him to the Capital; but with the sturdy independence characteristic of the man, the offer was courteously declined. He expects to be present when the Senate meets next week.

A very suggestive report has been made to the United States Government by the American consul at Roubaix, France, on the growth of alcoholism in France. It has always been the impression that the wine-drinking countries were, on the whole, the most temperate, and that drunkenness was most prevalent in those nations where wines and other light beverages were not an accompaniment of the daily dinner, but where whiskeys and brandies and other heavy alcoholic drinks were partaken of in large quantities. It appears, however, from this report that France ranks first among alcoholic nations, and that the evil of habitual drunkenness has become so great in that country that a congress was held in Paris in October last for the purpose of taking measures to decrease the evil. While France has alarmingly increased her consumption of alcohol in the last decade, in England and the United States there has been a steady decrease. To this fact, it is affirmed, foreign observers attribute in part the increasing commercial progress of the United States. Commenting upon this, the *Wall Street Journal* says: "This is a more powerful temperance lecture than any sermon could possibly be. It proves that temperance is one of the causes of a nation's strength, and that excess in alcoholism, if general among the people, is a cause of commercial decay."