

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

Lord Rosebery says that as Queen Victoria's influence was ever for peace, freedom, and good government, the world has lost one of its best friends.

A London fog is an expensive visitation. A day of it, counting the day at eight hours, is estimated to cost anything from £50,000 to £100,000 in hard cash.

The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York will leave England about the end of March or beginning of April, in time to reach Australia early in May.

There was not an inch of railway line in Britain when the late Queen was born; to-day there are 21,000 miles, and a thousand million passengers travel over them every year.

In Chicago the Armour Institute of Technology is to have a magnificent memorial window in memory of the late Philip D. Armour, jun. It is to cost \$10,000, and will show the respect the employees of the firm had for their friend and fellow worker.

Famine has broken out in two provinces of China having a population of twenty-one millions, two-thirds of whom are without sufficient food. Working oxen, horses and dogs are being eaten in great numbers. Thus, famine is added to the horrors of war. Instead of killing the Chinese perhaps the allied Powers should rather feed them.

Dr. Campbell Brown, London city analyst, testifying at a beer poisoning inquest at Liverpool, estimated from samples examined that the average weekly consumption of beer in Liverpool in summer time would contain three hundred pounds of arsenic, enough to kill a million people, if administered in equal doses and at one time.

The Scotch Americans say:—The Jersey City Presbytery has decided to appropriate the \$21,000 received from the sale of the Scotch Presbyterian Church to the payment of the debts of the other Presbyterian churches in the city. This church was the late Dr. Cochrane's first charge, and he resigned to go to Brantford; and later on Rev. David Mitchell, when he left Canada, became pastor of the Scotch Church, where he died a couple of years ago.

Rev. Dr. John Watson ("Ian Mac'aren"), Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of England writes:—"It is an inspiration to observe that everywhere the passion for unity is increasing in the Church. While we unite in the prayer of our great High Priest that we may all be one, let us seek after the things which make peace, giving no cause of offence to brethren, recognising the good in those who are not of our fold, but who are of the one flock, and assigning her supreme place to charity."

A letter has been received by the Rev. R. P. Mackay, secretary of the Presbyterian foreign missions, Toronto, from the Rev. J. N. Griffith, of Chifu, China, stating that a great number of the Chinese there are now being converted through the example of the native Christians, who have held so steadily by their religious faith throughout the troubles, even in the absence of the missionaries.

Prof. John A. Fleming, lecturing at Liverpool on the 12th inst., said he had Signor Marconi's permission to make first mention that on the first day of the reign of King Edward he (Marconi) accomplished the feat of sending wireless messages between St. Catherine's, Isle of Wight, and The Lizard, two hundred miles. Perfect communication between the two points has since been established.

Grippe is defined as an infectious disease, coming in an epidemic form, due to the operations of a specific poison in the system, which is favoured by exposure, carelessness, or a weak condition of the individual affected. Mental strain, worry, overwork, improper or insufficient nourishment, are given as potent causes of grippe and insanity; but intemperance in intoxicants is said to be a greater cause than all others combined. There is, therefore, a positive necessity for avoiding all predisposing causes, living temperately and cultivating a calm and equable frame of mind.

A special Act exempts the means and estate left by Queen Victoria from death duties, and so neither her Will nor an inventory of her estate will be recorded as is done in the case of a subject, but rumours get afloat. The latest is to the effect that the Queen has left £140,000 each to the Duke of Connaught, Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess Louise and Princess Beatrice, and includes several bequests for the Duchess of Albany and a number of the late Queen's grandchildren. The bulk of her private fortune, however, goes to King Edward, and both Balmoral and Osborne House are given to the King, two small houses on the Osborne estate are given to Princess Beatrice.

Rev. Dr. Walter C. Smith, Edinburgh, (the author of "Oirig Grange") celebrated his ministerial jubilee on the 14th ult., when he was presented by his congregation with 200 guineas. He is one of the most highly honoured veterans in Scottish literary and religious life. Born and educated in Aberdeen, he was ordained in London to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland, and has divided more than forty out of his fifty years of public work between Glasgow and Edinburgh, going to the Free High Church in the latter city just a quarter of a century ago. "Oirig Grange," the best known of his considerable writings in verse, dates from 1872. This poem and its successors, published for the most part anonymously, have given Dr. Smith a considerable reputation.

The American Presbyterian Church, Berlin, is attended by many Canadians and American tourists and students. An appeal is now being made for money to furnish a pew for such visitors. Rev. Louis H. Jordan, late of St. James Church, Toronto, has generously promised \$1,000 to aid in the endowment of such a pew. In the past Dr. Lyle and Miss Lyle, of Hamilton; Prof. and Mrs. McComb, of Kingston; Rev. Mr. Scott, Brantford; Rev. R. Liard, Brockville; Mr. Ogilvie, Montreal, and Mr. Mackenzie King, Deputy Minister of Labor, Ottawa, have all worshipped in this church; and we may add that a former minister of our church, Rev. Dr. Dickie, for some time minister of St. Andrew's, Berlin, Ontario, is the present pastor.

It would seem that the Sultan of Turkey has sounded the death-knell of the proposal to acquire Palestine for the Jews, for he has just issued an edict forbidding them from staying longer there than three months. A great exodus of Russian and Roumanian Jews to the Holy Land has been going on for some time, and this, as well as the Zionist movement, the Sultan regards with considerable suspicion. His edict directly concerns traders and pilgrims, but it will also prevent the acquisition by the Jews of any land in Palestine. So far the colonisation of Palestine has been chiefly by German-speaking Jews, and the Kaiser is said to regard the movement not only with great favor but actually encourages it, because he sees how in the future they will increase the influence of Germany in that section of the world. But this new edict applies equally to German, Russian and Roumanian, and hits the Germans harder than either of the other two.

Negotiations are under way for the punishment of the leaders in the recent Chinese outrages. Li Hung Chang and Prince Ching are on the one side and the foreign envoys on the other. The representatives of the powers profess to be much pleased with the attitude of the Chinese government. The representatives of the Chinese declare the willingness of their government to inflict punishment upon the designated officials, but the request is made that in certain instances the form of the punishment agreed upon be changed. The reason for this is that it does not seem becoming to inflict the severest penalty upon those who are relatives of the emperor, and in such cases the plea is made for banishment for life. Prince Tuan is the subject of a special plea. He was the great offender in the outrages, and above all others deserves severe punishment, but he is also the father of the heir apparent to the Chinese throne, and for that reason the Chinese envoys are making an effort to save him. If they get their way, the prince will be banished for life. The representatives of the powers have not yet made it known whether they will agree to the change of sentence. When this matter is out of the way, the rest will find a speedy settlement.