

The Dominion Presbyterian

IS PUBLISHED AT

323 FRANK ST., - OTTAWA

AND AT

MONTREAL AND WINNIPEG

TERMS: One year (50 issues) in advance \$1.50

Six Months75

CLUBS of Five, at same time . . . \$5.00

The date on the label shows to what time the paper is paid for. Notify the publisher at once of any mistake on label.

Paper is continued until an order is sent for discontinuance, and with it, payment of arrearages.

When the address of your paper is to be changed, send the old as well as new address.

Sample copies sent upon application.

Send all remittances by check, money order or registered letter, made payable to The Dominion Presbyterian.

Advertising Rates. — 15 cents per agate line each insertion, 14 lines to the inch, 121-2 inches to the column.

Letters should be addressed:

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,
P. O. Drawer 1070, Ottawa.

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Manager and Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28, 1906.

SUNDAY REST.

Canada is not alone in legislative advance in regard to labor on the Sabbath. In a line with the new legislation in France requiring absolutely one day's rest in seven for all laborers, we have a report of the English select committee inquiring into Sunday labor in the United Kingdom. Without exception the eminent physicians of England declare a rest day to be a physical necessity. The committee found the mayors of all the great English cities in favor of restrictive legislation; and most of the traders, barbers and dairymen desired a Sunday rest and looked to the government to secure it for them. It seems as though the reform which has assumed such marked proportions in France might be followed by a much needed repression of trade in the old home of the so-called "Puritan Sabbath."

DR. PATON.

Dr. John G. Paton, writing from Victoria, Australia, where he is spending his old age in sending forward men and money to his beloved work among the islands, tells us that three natives of Tana, members of the Christian community, were recently killed by the heathen of the interior among whom they had gone as peace-makers. The natives in remote districts are constantly supplied by French traders with rum and rifles. The result is incessant inter-tribal war. These three native Christians volunteered their influence in restoring peace. But they were killed before they could enter upon their work. Nevertheless the Christians of Tana have not renounced the task.

NOTICE.

Will ministers of the Presbyterian church take notice that the Emergencies Committee has accepted the resignation of Mr. Alexander Warden as Treasurer of the church and appointed Rev. Dr. Somerville in his place. Communications should, therefore, be sent to Dr. Somerville, Confederation Life Building, Toronto, and all contributions sent by congregational treasurers and others to the schemes of the church should be made payable to the Presbyterian church in Canada. This direction is of special importance and it is hoped that all parties concerned will make them so payable.

JOHN SOMERVILLE

A NEW BOOK.

The Orbit of Life: Studies in Human Experience, by Rev. W. T. Herridge, D. D., Minister of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa. (Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto).

The minister of St. Andrew's church, Ottawa, has long been known as a bright, attractive preacher, who sets forth Christian principles in a winsome manner, with well balanced sentences and choice illustrations; consequently many will be glad to have a specimen of his thoughts and style such as is furnished in this small volume. The book is a modest volume of about 150 pages, well printed and neatly bound. It comes opportunely at the Christmas season and is suitable as a gift to those who can appreciate a dainty bit of literature. Dr. Herridge does not attempt in such brief space to give a complete philosophy of life, but the ideas that he has selected for treatment are an important part of any such philosophy; for example, the need of repose; the importance of harmonious home life; the nobility of self-mastery; the call to appreciate the significance of other lives, etc.

However, in noticing a volume of this nature, it is as well to let the author speak for himself in one or two typical passages which set forth the sentiments of one who as a preacher is also something of a poet.

"And yet, the contrary wind may often be accentuated by a contrary spirit to ourselves. Any sailor prefers a forward-breeze; but if he is of the right sort, he will yoke adverse forces to his resolute will, and make what headway he can even against the storm. There is no virtue bound up of necessity in the hardships of life. All depends upon the way in which we view them. We may manufacture an east wind out of almost anything and revel in a luxury of gratuitous wretchedness, yet be further from truly noble living than those upon whom the sun seems to shine all the time. The same circumstances affect different people in wholly different ways. While this man delights in a difficult task, and keys up his nature to the utmost requirements of the situation, that man folds his hands in absolute despair. Some patiently endure the fret of sickness, and learn the rich lessons which it brings; others keep chafing against it, and resume customary duties neither wiser nor better for the interruption of them. There are those

who, after the blow which has shattered their hopes and well nigh broken their hearts, still find a sweet, consoling peace creeps in like sunshine through the thick darkness of grief; and there are those who curse a cruel fate, and discern no large and kindly master-hand at work amid the tangled threads of human history."

The following forms an appropriate conclusion to a volume which everywhere breathes a hopeful spirit:—

"We are prone to lay too much emphasis on the episode called Death. No doubt it marks a boundary of vision, and puts an end to the familiar setting of things. But it destroys no truth. It shakes nothing that is permanent. If life was there before, life will be there after. It is an introduction rather than a finale, and prepares the way for perfecting the equation between surroundings and character. Even in its powers of severance it is distinctly limited. The brave and true of every age are the world's perpetual inheritance. The more we have loved our dear ones, the less are they lost altogether. Their memory and influence remain. The subtle persuasion that they are still alive cannot be got rid of; and possibly if we had keener vision, we might catch a glimpse now of the spiritual body, as Christ's first disciples did, and thus, in some hour of deep gloom, perhaps be able to anticipate the time when we shall see them without a veil between."

CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S WORK

A very important conference was held on Thursday last in Toronto in connection with the proposal to amalgamate the W. F. M. S. and the W. H. M. S. into one society for the women of the church. The conference resulted from an overture proposed by the Rev. R. G. MacBeth, of Paris, and the assembly noting the importance of it appointed a conference with all the parties interested. The special committee consisted of Rev. Dr. Armstrong of Ottawa, chairman, Rev. R. G. MacBeth, Sir Thomas W. Taylor and John A. Paterson, K.C. There was a large attendance at the conference of ladies from both societies, besides representatives from the Foreign Mission Committee and the Home Mission Committee. The conference was marked by a very great spirit of earnestness, by a courteous and frank discussion of the whole situation, and by an evident intention to do what is best in the interests of the work, both at home and abroad. At the opening the chairman asked Mr. MacBeth to make a statement on the question, and he accordingly rehearsed the steps that had been taken and gave special reasons to indicate that the church was decidedly in favor of consolidating the work in the interests of the cause of missions, the work of congregations and the welfare of the home. Addresses were made by ladies from both societies, by the travelling secretaries, by Revs. W. A. J. Martin, Dr. Somerville, Principal McLaren, Rev. Dr. Smith (formerly of Hawaii), Rev. E. D. McLaren, Rev. G. R. Faeken and others, and there were many questions asked and answered. All frankly allowed that local surroundings and the size of congregations must have great influence on the methods followed in each case and every one seemed to feel that the present situation in Canada and the world demanded much thought. The ladies from both societies expressed a full sympathy with the whole work and realized the claims which both Home and Foreign Missions have upon us all. At the conclusion of the conference the chairman said that the special committee would take all the facts into consideration and would, as instructed, report with recommendations to the next assembly. Any further suggestions or statements by those interested may be sent to Mr. MacBeth.