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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13, 1905.

As we go to press the annual exhibition of the Central Canada Association is being thronged by thousands of visitors from all parts of Eastern Ontario and the Ottawa Valley. The number and quality of exhibits are said to excel those of previous years.

The Ottawa Ladies' Record reopened on Tuesday with a record attendance: and the prospect is bright for an exceedingly prosperous year. The staff of teachers is complete, and many improvements have been made within and without the college buildings.

The late Hon. W. E. Dodge, of New York, in his life time was a railway stockholder and director, and when his company proposed and finally carried out their proposal to run excursion trains on Sunday he promptly retired from the directorate of the railway and sold out his shares, at the same time making the pungent remark: "These gentlemen put a flag on every locomotive with these words inscribed on it, 'We break God's law for a dividend.'" That is precisely what is being done to-day by railway managers who persist in running excursion and other railway trains on the Lord's Day. Mr. Dodge, however, took a financial interest in and became a director of another railway which enjoyed a large degree of prosperity so long as it adhered to the policy of running no Sunday trains. With the advent of the Sunday train it struck the rocks of disaster. Referring to this incident in connection with the recent decision of a British railway to run excursion trains on Sunday, the Belfast Witness says: "It is marvellous how slow our humane railway directors are to learn that railway officials—station-masters and porters—need, like others, a day of rest to repair the waste of physical tissue: how, as an able Quarterly Reviewer told us some time ago, the very machinery and rails need a rest day in order that they may last the longer. Perhaps, if it was carefully inquired into, it would be found that many of the sad accidents which occur, entailing the loss of life and property, are traceable to the violation of God's holy command which enjoins upon man and beast, and even inanimate nature, one day in seven of complete rest." This view is worth thinking over by railway directors and managers.

BY CONTRARIES

"Dreams go by contraries," and the following admonitions to congregations and members might as well go the same way.

Re Church Attendance: If it is a little wet, or cool, or a trifle over-warm, don't go to church. You see it would be encouraging to your minister and your fellow-members.

Re Sabbath School: Take a nap on Sabbath afternoons to sleep off uneasily the effects of your over-heavy dinner, instead of helping as a teacher. If you are a teacher, always give preference to the curling rink over the teachers' meeting.

Re Prayer Meeting: Grumble at its dullness. Don't make the mistake of personally doing something to brighten it.

Re the Choir: Remember what you owe for its display and musical guidance, not the reverent guidance of the praise service of the congregation.

WITH THE ANGLICANS

The big Anglican parliament, recently in session at Quebec, dealt with two interesting matters among others. On the subject of liquor saloons under the wing of the Church, such as that inaugurated in New York by Bishop Potter, an outspoken condemnation was recorded. Our readers may perhaps have read in the daily newspapers that the Bishop's saloon, though well meant, and theoretically capable of some defense, proved an unsuccessful venture financially, and has been sold out to a person who has converted it into a liquor saloon of the good old sort.

Another interesting thing was the suggestion that Thanksgiving Day should be appointed for a Sunday with, if desired, the following day as a more secular kind of holiday. The suggestion is a good one. Holding "Thanksgiving Day" on a week day is in practice (however good in theory) the ghastliest kind of farce. In practice there is a good deal of bird shooting, military marching, drinking, railway-excursioning, but no general assembling of the people in churches for the united public giving of thanks. In a few churches the barest handful of people assemble. By having the Thanksgiving Day on Sunday, and arranging for bright and stirring services, a vast number of people would be reached and touched.

A valued correspondent at Chatham, Ontario, sends us the following:—Mr. E. H. Oliver, M.A., a distinguished graduate of Knox College and Toronto University, (now lecturer in history in McMaster), has, in the absence of our pastor, Rev. M. McGillivray, been preaching for us in the First Church. Without going beyond the language of "truth and soberness" we may predict a bright future for this young man. A good speaker, earnest, terse, epigrammatic, possessing a wealth of apt illustrations, he suggested Moody to me in some respects, although he is himself copying no one. To the man, regardless of the Lord's Day, who boasted that he ploughed, sowed the seed, cut and harvested his crops on Sunday as on any other day, and notwithstanding his barns were full, and he enjoyed great prosperity, Mr. Oliver replied: "God does not always settle accounts on the 1st of October, that is at threshing time; the day of settlement may be delayed for months or even years, but it is sure to come, and the Sabbath breaker receives his reward. We are proud of Mr. Oliver. He is the product of this neighborhood, which sent forth such men as the late Principal MacVicar, his brother Prof. McVicar, and the well known Dr. A. B. Simpson, formerly of Knox Church, Hamilton, now of New York City.

The Canadian Pacific Railway have notified the government that they intend placing steamers on the Atlantic next season, which will make twenty knots an hour. This means that tenders will be offered to carry the Canadian mails.

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

The Presbyterians this summer held a splendidly successful "Bible Conference" at Winona, Ill. Dr. Chapman, Dr. Patton, Dr. Ross, the Presbyterian pastor in Cambridge, England, and William J. Bryan, ex-candidate for U.S. Presidency, were the chief speakers. According to the Chicago Interior's editorial estimate, the layman by no means cut the poorest figure, even where all did well. This is what the Interior says:

"And Mr. Bryan in his new role of lay preacher—he is also a big discovery to the people who hear him, and one suspects he must be the same to himself. To hear a man famed as the greatest political orator of his age, delivering before Bible Conference a sermon that would get him a call instantly if he presented it as a candidate before a pastorless congregation,—this new thing gives one a feeling of something having been turned topsy turvy. But long ere the last word of the sermon-lecture is spoken, the lecturer is well convinced that if there has really been any turning over, it is the right side which has now come uppermost—an expression of the man more real than his political addresses. Mr. Bryan delivered on Friday afternoon of last week before the greatest audience of the whole conference—about four thousand—his new address on 'The Prince of Peace,' and it was received with enthusiasm which was not equalled in respect to any other feature of the whole programme.

"Mr. Bryan was not simply religious in his line of discussion and appeal; he was evangelical; even more, he was spiritual. His main purpose was to show that the reception of Christ into the human life brings peace to the hearts of men when no earthly successes satisfy, and that the spirit of Christ in society increases peace continually in the personal relations of humanity. Incidental to this, he made a manly, straightforward defense of the reality of miracles, the divinity of Christ, the reasonableness of atonement and the assurance of immortality. His arguments were not such as would satisfy a professor of apologetics, but they were made up of a practical, common-sense logic that would strike square in the centre of a plain man's difficulties. His eulogies of faith and self-sacrifice, and his plea to young men and young women to trust themselves fully to the friendship of Jesus Christ, were in the best manner of Mr. Bryan's superb oratory, touched and re-enforced by burning feeling. In his introduction Mr. Bryan declared that he had no apology to make for turning from politics to religion as a theme of public speech, because matters of government touch only a small segment of our lives, but religion covers the whole circle. 'And, besides,' he added with a smile, 'I hate monopoly so much that I don't want even the preachers to have a monopoly of talking religion.'

Leslie's Weekly, in a recent editorial on the subject of "Sabbath-breaking by the Rich," says with very much truth: "Escaping from God would fittingly paraphrase the notion that some people, especially young people, seem to have, if one may judge from their lack of any evident feeling of religious obligation, when, on weekend parties, they spend Sunday in the country. In a discussion of the subject Senator Dewey puts the blame on the parents. They fail, he thinks, to impress the lesson that church-going is not merely a custom, or city fashion, but is a solemn duty to self, to society, and to God." There is a great deal of force in such a view, but is Senator Dewey the man to moralize in this fashion, seeing that the New York Central Railway, in the management of which he is a somewhat important personage, gives aid to this "Sabbath-breaking by the Rich," by running excursion trains on the Sabbath. Too many people fail to practice what they preach.