

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 months 75

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

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

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

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 postal note, made payable to The Dominion Presbyterian.

Advertising Rates.—15 cents per agate line each insertion, 14 lines to the inch, 11½ inches to the column.

Letters should be addressed:

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

P. O. Drawer 1070, Ottawa.

C. Blackett Robinson, Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1906.

The King has been pleased to appoint Lord Colerbrooke to be Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Lord Colerbrooke is a deputy-lieutenant for the county of Lanarkshire. His estate comprises some 20,000 acres, and his residence, Glengonnar, Abington, is one of the prettiest and best appointed family seats in the country. He enjoys the friendship of the Prince of Wales, who in August, 1903, paid him a visit of three weeks' duration.

The Scottish correspondent of the Belfast Witness writes:

Attention has been called to the Gaelic supplement of the "Highland Witness," an official United Free Church paper. The English part is unexceptionable in tone but translations of the Gaelic pages have been given to the public, and some of these are painful reading. They make many strange charges against the Free Church, of which some of them are comic in their absurdity, as, for example, that the Free Church is welcoming "voluntaries" and users of hymns and organs, and people who don't believe in verbal inspiration. All this may be true, but it does not become the United Free Church to take the place of accuser on any of these counts. These articles cannot be seen before publication by the leaders of the United Free Church, who are not strong in knowledge of Gaelic. Men like Principal Rainy would never consent to these railings.

The Presbyterian College, Halifax, closed with appropriate ceremonies on Wednesday week. Four students completed their curriculum. It is expected that next year's graduating class will be the largest in the history of the college. Rev. Dr. Currie then presented to the principal for the degree of Doctor of Divinity: The Rev. T. Chalmers Jack, now minister of St. Matthew's Church, North Sydney; the Rev. E. A. MacCurdy, agent of the church, and Rev. Andrew Robertson of St. Andrew's Church, St. John's, Newfoundland. The principal called upon Dr. Robertson to address the convocation and the newly decorated Doctor gave an exceedingly forcible and appropriate address. His plea for a devout life was most impressive. A feature of the proceedings was a spirited address by Lieut. Governor Fraser, who was received with warm applause. "Pray for the pew; prepare for the pew; have your mind filled, saturated with the truth; preach to the pew; fear not the pew; fill the news!" The speaker urged the solemn thought that the preacher is under the eye of God.

SOMETHING TO DO.

Some congregations, in admitting new members, have them sign a form, choosing one or two departments of church life in which to give service. The result is the incomers become speedily interested, as well as acquainted, and do not start in with the false notion that they are to be merely receivers of benefit, and not givers. It seems an absurdity to add constantly to the membership roll a large number of persons who at once sink back into non-active, purely receptive pew-holders. It is astonishing to find how many church members there are who believe in the proxy system of religion and congregational life. That is not the true ideal of a Christian organization. "All at it, and always at it," is an ideal much worthier of being desired.

THE MID-WEEK MEETING.

That the mid-week meeting—or "prayer meeting," as it is sometimes called, though why we do not know—is to a considerable extent a failure in point of attendance, if not in some other respects, is admitted by most. The extent of the failure, or success, as the case may be, depends on circumstances and surroundings. There are mid-week meetings fairly deserving to be called successful; but these are in the minority. The causes for such a state of affairs have been often canvassed, but a remark made recently by a mother in Israel is not without suggestion: "The children are not brought to the prayer meeting; are apparently not expected; hence have no training in such attendance; are trained, in fact, to use the night of the mid-week meeting for other purposes."

There is often, too, a formalism which suggests superficiality rather than sincerity of petition.

There is a remedy, doubtless; the lack is not in God.

TIME FOR EVERYTHING.

It was a saying of George Macdonald, the great novelist who died recently, "There's time for everything," so sure was he that, in the wise planning of every life by its Giver and Guide, the task would fit the hour and the hour the task. It was as if each fleeting moment were a golden setting waiting to be filled with the precious jewel of some useful deed.

Share this belief and much of the worry that frets and fevers will vanish. Let duty after duty add itself to the pile that rises up before us. What matters it when we know that for each there are its allotted moments, never too short, never too many.

The belief is a spur, as well, to diligence. Waste the priceless, present instant, and we are burdening the next with a load which it was not intended to carry. But if we fill it with its appointed work, we can go forward to the next thing with a free mind and undivided energy. Free from anxiety about the demands of the future, giving ourselves wholly to meet those of the now, we shall work with the greatest effectiveness and reach the highest success.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has come and gone. While in the city he was the guest of Earl Grey at Rideau Hall. After quietly resting Monday forenoon he took luncheon with Sir Sandford Fleming, who accompanied him to the library building at 3 o'clock. There he was met by Mayor Ellis, who presented a civic address of welcome, conveying thanks for his munificent gift. Mr. Carnegie made an appropriate reply. He congratulated the city on the style and finish of the building. The affair was informal, there being but very few invitations issued. It took place in the open air, the distinguished party taking up a position on the broad stone steps leading to the library.

A GREAT CITY DESTROYED.

Half a century in building, half a minute in falling—that is in brief the story of San Francisco. The earthquake shock which, followed by an uncontrollable fire, has practically destroyed the metropolis of the Pacific coast, was just twenty-eight seconds in duration. It was followed by other shocks later, but it was the first shock that did the damage, and which started the conflagration that completed the city's ruin. With gas escaping everywhere from the broken gas mains to aid in the quick spread of the flames, and with the supply of water cut off by reason of the broken water mains, the citizens were next to helpless as the flames swept first over the business section and then spread to the residence section until 200,000 people were rendered homeless in twenty-four hours.

Had it not been that the full force of the shock was limited to the business section and came at an hour when that section was comparatively deserted, San Francisco might have furnished a loss of life equal to that seen when Lisbon was destroyed by an earthquake and sixty thousand persons were killed. Had the stone walls of San Francisco's tall steel structures fallen a few hours later into streets teeming with a busy throng, had the big department stores collapsed when filled with shoppers, there would have been thousands of deaths where there were hundreds. It was bad enough, Heaven knows, as it was; but how much worse it might have been! The city can be and will be rebuilt and its beauty and prosperity may in the years to come be really enhanced by the catastrophe.

It is the suddenness of a calamity of this kind that gives it its most dreadful aspect and that for the time being stuns the mind and paralyzes the will. Here is the account of one of the eye-witnesses of the scenes after the earthquake:

"Of the scenes which marked the transformation of this the gayest, most carefree city on the continent into a wreck and a hell it is harder to write. That the day started with a blind, general panic goes without saying. People woke with a start to find themselves flung on the floor. In such an earthquake as this it is the human instinct to get out of doors, away from falling walls. The people stumbled across the floors of their heaving houses to find that even the good earth upon which they placed their reliance was swaying and rising and falling so that the sidewalks cracked and great rents opened in the ground.

"The three minutes which followed were an eternity of terror. Probably a dozen or more persons died of pure fright in that three minutes, when there seemed no help in earth or heaven. There was a roar in the air like a great burst of thunder and from all about came the crash of falling walls. It died down at last, leaving the earth quaking and quivering like jelly. Men would run forward, stop as another shock, which might be greater any moment, seemed to take the earth from under their feet, and throw themselves face downward on the ground in an agony of fear."

Vesuvius gave warnings of its recent eruption months before. But the earthquake in California gave no warning. It struck with the abruptness of a bolt of lightning and did its worst work while a person might hold his breath. Not in San Francisco alone, but in Palo Alto (where the buildings of the Leland Stanford University have been severely injured), in Santa Rosa (where not a brick or stone building was left standing) and in numerous other towns and small cities the damage has been proportionately as great as in the city by the Golden Gate. The whole country has been inexpressibly shocked and measures for quick relief have been promptly instituted. The exact loss of life will probably never be known. The damage to property runs into the hundreds of millions, but the President of the United States has decided that no outside aid will be accepted.