

The Dominion Presbyterian

IS PUBLISHED AT

323 FRANK ST., - OTTAWA

AND AT

MONTREAL AND WINNIPEG

Terms: One year (50 issues) in advance, \$1.50.

SPECIAL OFFER.—Any one sending us FIVE new names and \$5.00 will be entitled to a FREE copy for twelve months.

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

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

Send all remittances by check, money order, or registered letter, made payable to the DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN.

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

Sample copies sent upon application.

Letters should be addressed:—

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

P. O. Drawer 563, Ottawa.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,

Manager and Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 23, 1908

The Presbytery of Montreal has adopted a minute expressing the Presbytery's sense of the loss the city and district has sustained by the death of the Right Reverend Bishop Carmichael, and deep sympathy with the deceased prelate's family.

The Rev. Dr. Walter Chalmers Smith, senior minister of the United Free High Church in Edinburgh, and the last of a literary coterie which included Professor Blackie and Professor Masson, is dead. His collected poems have passed through two editions. Mr. J. M. Barrie was one of his Bible class students.

Many young people fail because they are not willing to work. They complain that nobody will give them a chance and that others with a "pull" get ahead of them. They do not seem to realize that the most effective pull in this world is hard work coupled with clean living. A writer has well said "that these young people do not seem to be willing to buckle down to hard work and qualify themselves for the many enviable openings that are accorded them."

The Jewish people insist on many occasions that they are a most exemplary people, and free from the vices and crimes of ordinary populations. But the Police Commissioner of New York recently made the statement that one-half of the crime in New York is committed by Hebrews, and says that the most expert of street thieves are Jewish boys under sixteen years of age. There is evidently great room for the work of Christian missions among a people of whom these things are true.

PRESBYTERIAN PAPERS.

The United Presbyterian Church of America has a "Committee of Ways and Means." This committee works for the success of the Denomination in the land. They have found that a great source of power is to promote the circulation among the members of their own periodicals. There are five of these. The committee sent every pastor a blank asking for the names of every family in the church not already supplied with some denominational periodical, and it made arrangements that every such family should receive at least three consecutive numbers of each of the Church or Gans. The committee will later make a direct appeal to each family to subscribe for at least one or two of these periodicals. "It is utterly impossible for any man or woman to be an intelligent Church member without reading regularly a Church paper," is the committee's uncompromising declaration. Apparently its crusade meets favor among the pastors and eldership. A clerk of session is quoted as writing—"May the Lord bless you. I believe you have struck at the root of the matter, and hope you will never cease until success is attained."

How would it do for the Presbyterians of Canada to take a hint from their brethren in the United States. Here we have four papers—and all of them could be made immensely more effective and useful by giving them a largely extended circulation.

CLOSING OF CHURCHES.

The "Scottish Review" refers unfavorably to the practice of closing some churches in towns during part of the summer. The practice began in the United States, where city churches closed in the great heat because most of the congregation had gone from home. In Great Britain and Ireland there is no such summer heat, and no such absence from home of whole congregations." The writer marks the danger to the spiritual life in closing even for a month the well-loved House of God, where the worshipper feels most at home, and away from which many persons cannot enjoy the service. And these are often the best and worthiest Church members. The effect on the outsiders, he thinks, is bad. People unfriendly to Religion will say, "Why should they close their churches if religion is the life-and-death matter they pretend to believe it? On their own showing it is not the urgent matter that they would have us believe; or, if it is, they are lacking in the earnestness and devotion which ought to characterize it." He concludes that the "ever open door" is the true policy for the Church in these days.

On Monday, Nov. 9, the Rev. James Barclay, D.D., LL.D., will have been twenty-five years pastor of St. Paul's church, Montreal, and in honor of this occasion the kirk session and the board of trustees intend having a social gathering of the congregation, when an address and presentation will be made to their spiritual adviser.

THE TROUBLE WITH CARD-PLAYING.

There are two fundamental objections to card-playing which would seem to outweigh heavily any benefits that it may offer. These two are: Its recognition of chance as an important factor; its association with a gambling, dissolute element of society.

Most games of cards are based upon chance as the leading factor, rather than skill. There is, of course, plenty of opportunity to use skill in playing the cards which chance has given one; but there is a well-recognized, sharply defined line of distinction between cards, and checkers, chess, tennis, bowling, and the like. The latter are games of skill; the former is a game of chance. And the practical question for young people and adults alike to consider, is this: Do I want to cultivate, in my amusements, an element—chance, or luck—which has no recognition by sensible, successful people in any other branch of life; or shall I make my amusements contribute to my general efficiency by their cultivation of skill? And when parents are considering the question of their children's amusements at the most impressionable time of life, the choice of these two opposing tendencies, skill and luck, as tendencies of life to be encouraged and developed by the children's games, offers food for pretty serious thought.

Cards and card-playing are peculiarly associated with the gambling, drinking, dissolute elements of society. Probably no other form of game has this association to any such degree. The chance or luck elements makes a strong appeal to those human beings who have little to do with honest effort and clean, high-class skill as their chief asset in life. Inasmuch as cards have been appropriated, therefore, by the worst and lowest elements in society, do we want to open our own homes to a debauched amusement? Do we want our boys to become adepts, in the home, at a game which, in college or out in the world, will make it easy and tempting for them to get into close association with men whose life and practices are wholly unworthy.

Even if the amusement were innocent and harmless in itself, its associations are such as to make its adoption a fair question. But its associations are the logical outcome of its inherent unworthiness; and the combination of these two facts is sufficient, in the minds of many, to put the game clean over the borderline and into the realm of practices that are beyond debate.

According to the "Christian Intelligencer," it is announced in Rome that the Pope will discuss the London Eucharistic Congress in his next encyclical and will at the same time deal with the action of the British government's representative against the carrying of the Host in procession. The Roman Catholic members of Parliament, headed by Lord Edmund Talbot, brother of the Duke of Norfolk, will raise the question in Parliament as soon as it reassembles and will urge that the time has come for the repeal of laws that place Roman Catholics at a disadvantage as compared with other religious bodies.