

Dominion Presbyterian

Devoted to the Interests of the Family and the Church

\$1.50 per Annum

MONTREAL, TORONTO, WINNIPEG

Single Copies, 5 Cents

Correspondents will please note that all letters should be addressed The Dominion Presbyterian, 232 St. James St., Montreal.

Death of Principal King, D.D.

The death of Principal King, which took place at 4 o'clock on Sabbath afternoon, was a surprise to many, as he was thought to be recovering from the attack of pneumonia contracted early in the year. His intimate friends, however, had feared the worst, as his system was so thoroughly weakened that vitality could not be restored. Feccas-1 was the leader of the Presbyterian Church and college work in the west, and his death will be generally mourned. Coming here from Toronto in the early eighties, he at once began the work of building up Manitoba College and succeeded in making it one of the leading Presbyterian institutions of Canada.

Rev. John Mark King, D.D., Principal of Manitoba College, was of Scottish birth, having been born May 25th, 1829, in Roxburghshire, in the small but well known village of Yetholm. As a mere boy he attended Edinburgh University, and though so young, gained distinction in mathematics and other branches. In 1854 the M.A. degree was obtained at the close of his arts course in the university. In the same year he completed his course in the Divinity Hall of the United Presbyterian Church. The young graduate then crossed over to Germany, and in the University of Halle sat at the feet of its erudite professors and became a proficient in the German language. At this time the United Presbyterian Church was stirred up to take greater interest in Canada, and sent out a number of promising young men to engage in colonial mission work. Mr. King, who was one of these, was well received in the various vacancies, and purposely put off settlement in order that he might become better acquainted with the Canadian church. At length in 1857, he accepted a call to Columbus and Brooklyn, a charge some thirty miles east of Toronto. Here he was an eminently faithful and successful pastor.

In 1852-3 the congregation of Gould Street Church, Toronto, was reduced to great straits. They were a mere handful, with a heavy church debt. The noble father of the church, Dr. Robert Burns, came to their assistance, and, after aiding them for a year, advised them in 1863 to call Mr. King.

Here the young preacher's intensity in the pulpit and his untiring energy as a pastor gathered together a congregation which has since become greatly noted for its zeal and liberality. When the Gould Street Church building became unsuitable for the congregation, at the urgent solicitation of the pastor, the handsome new St. James' Square Church was erected. Twenty years of unremitting labor among the increasing members, many of whom were university and theological students, make a distinct type of church life in the congregation. During this time the pastor was married to Miss Janet Skinner, who proved a true helpmeet to him till the time of her death. For this long period of time also Mr. King was a prominent member of the Home Mission Committee of the church, acting at the same time as Home Mission Convener of Toronto Presbytery. It was no mere formality, but a well-earned honor, when in 1882 the degree of D.D. was conferred by Knox College, Toronto, in the first exercise of its newly-received power of granting degrees.

In 1885, at the call of the General Assembly, of which he had in that year been chosen Moderator, Dr. King accepted his present position of principal and professor of theology in Manitoba College, Winnipeg. During his busy pastorate Dr. King had taken much interest in Knox College, so that the new position was congenial. In addition to his teaching duties, the management of the financial affairs of the college has occupied much of his thought, and in eight years a heavy debt of \$40,000 was grappled with and removed.

Note and Comment

Of the six Presidents who have sought to control the destinies of France during the existence of the Third Republic, two have died while in office.

The Kingston Penitentiary will be equipped with a printing press, and all the report forms and binder twine bags will be printed in the institution. Printers will be to be created, as it is said, there are none in the institution.

Rev. Mr. Gibson Ireland has a deputy from the Presbyterian Church in Queensland. Licentiates towns and villages, and to some fifteen or twenty Queensland is prepared to guarantee stipends of £200 a year for three years.

Ranavaloa, the ex-Queen of Madagascar, who had been a captive on Reunion Island, was recently embarked, with a suite of ten persons, and is being prepared for Algiers, where a residence has been prepared for her. The French regarded Reunion Island as too close to Madagascar.

Mr. D. L. Moody has expressed his warm approval of the Endeavor work carried on in American prisons, many of which he has visited during the past few months. He says he is glad that Christian Endeavorers have entered into a field which Christian workers have neglected too long.

In an article, entitled "Gin-soaked Africa," the London Daily Chronicle says there is every reason to believe that one steamer took out from Rotterdam a thousand tons of gin for West Africa, and in two months some 2,227 tons of gin were sent out from the same source for the black populations of the Niger.

The reported discovery of the bodies of Andre and his companions is not credited in Sweden, and search parties have returned from Northern Siberia without finding anything to confirm the recent rumors. A Christiana gentleman has offered to fit out a whaler at his own cost and place it at the disposal of a search expedition.

The passage of the Federation bill in the New South Wales Parliament is now said to be assured. The Governor, in his speech from the throne, said it appeared to the ministry that the other Australian Governments had gone so far to meet the objections of New South Wales that further delay or opposition to the completion of the great work of national union was unreasonable.

It is reported that Mr. Isaac Campbell, Q.C. of Winnipeg, has been offered and refused the Chief Justiceship of Manitoba, in succession to Sir Thomas W. Taylor, who recently resigned. Mr. Campbell's declination is to be regretted, as he is in every way well qualified for the position and his appointment would have given general satisfaction. The name of Mr. J. S. Ewart, Q.C., has also been mentioned in connection with the Chief Justiceship. He is an able lawyer, a man of unblemished reputation, and, if selected, would creditably wear the ermine.

The question of the danger to England that might arise in time of war from our dependence upon imported food, says the Christian World, has been considered at the Admiralty, at the Board of Trade, and the Board of Agriculture, but the Government does not believe that there would be any scarcity of corn unless it should be declared contraband of war. "But," says Mr. Ritchie, "an enemy would be unlikely to make that declaration for fear of incurring the hostility of the United States and possibly that of other countries." "Protection," Mr. Ritchie declares, "is not within the range of practical policies," a national marine insurance "would impose so gigantic a burden upon the government that no ministers in their senses would ever undertake it, and the establishment of public granaries is open to the same objection.

The "Interior" reports that 506 students were enrolled last year in D. L. Moody's Bible Institute, Chicago, covering thirty-eight States and Territories and eighteen foreign countries. Thirty-three denominations were represented, the Presbyterian and Methodist dividing equally between them more than one-third of the total enrollment.

The University of Edinburgh has conferred the degree of D.D. upon Rev. John T. Gibson, M.A., the well-known English Presbyterian missionary now home from China on a furlough. Dr. Gibson has done good work as a translator. His introductory lecture at the college in London on the afternoon of Wednesday next will be entitled, "Mission Problem and the Historical Background in China."

A Roman Catholic priest as being tried in Russian Poland on a charge of having tried his fanatical parishioners as a punishment for their errors. The women, it is alleged, were taken down into the vaults of the church, where, apart from the flogging they received, their superstitious fears were practised upon by means of bogus apparitions representing death and the devil.

The musical success of the season was the thoroughly artistic concert given in Windsor Hall Montreal, on Monday last, by Lady Halle, the noted English violinist, and Miss Edith J. Miller, contralto, of New York. Lady Halle has back of her a long series of successes, having secured the admiration of the British and European public. She is mistress of her art, and possesses freshness, perfect expression and technique. Miss Miller is a Canadian, of whom all Canadians may be proud, and commands a contralto voice of warmth, sweetness and beauty of tone. The versatility of the artist was shown in her selections, which included French, English, German and Irish ballad. Mrs. H. R. Ives was an efficient accompanist.

One of the most valuable features of Every Month, is the new and popular music, and in the March number appear "The Orpheus Fiddlers and I Wonder Why," by Paul Dresser (whose "Banks of the Wabash" have made him known throughout the length and breadth of the country); "The Feast of Lanterns," March and Two Step, a piano piece, with Chinese motif, and "The Girl Who's so Dear to My Heart," an Irish Ballad with a melody and pathos which will make other than Irish eyes water. The general reading in this number is especially interesting. Every Month, New York, 10 cents.

The March number of the Canadian Magazine maintains the reputation of that useful monthly for providing instructive, as well as entertaining, literature for its readers. Canadians who are fond of reading the story of History of Canada will read with interest the "Early History of Canada" from the pen of Professor S. J. McLean, and the illustrated descriptions of St. John in reference to its suitability as a winter port, by Mr. A. M. Belding; while the article treating on "Municipal Reform in Montreal," by a writer who styles himself a French-Canadian, will be read with interest by all dwellers in the Island City, to whom the present condition of the local administration of public affairs appears little short of an open scandal. The present number opens with an excellent portrait, and a well-written biography of the Marquis of Salisbury, by Mr. A. H. U. Oshquinn; and this is followed by an account, by Professor Adam Shortt, of the early projection of the Nicaragua Canal, and the history and provisions of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and the writer's conclusions are that the canal cannot be built and maintained under the auspices of any Central American state, but only by the Government of the United States, who alone can provide the essential guarantee of its neutrality, and that as the circumstances which necessitated the treaty are no longer existent, it should be abrogated, and a pledge given by the United States for the use of the canal on the same terms as for their own vessels, by those of all nations at peace with the United States, and subject to the rules of international law in times of war.