

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 arrears.

When the address of your paper is to be changed, send the old as well as now 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, 1 1/2 inches to the column.

Letters should be addressed:

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

P. O. Drawer 1076, Ottawa.

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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1906.

The visit to the Capital of Prince Arthur A. Connaught has been the event of the week. He was warmly welcomed, and is the guest of the Governor-General at Rideau Hall.

The recently discovered Jersey and Kiffin record of English Baptists is reputed to show clearly that the earliest English Baptists were not immersionists.

Lord Aberdeen visited Belfast last week and received twenty-four addresses of welcome. The first address was that of the Corporation, and the second that of the Presbytery, to which His Excellency in reply made cordial and graceful reference.

It is said that Mr. Alexander's revival songs are now as popular in England as Mr. Sankey's were a generation ago. The "Glory" song—an especial favorite—has appeared in print about 17,000,000 times in three years. The London dailies often publish the words and music.

The party which will accompany Mr. Carnegie to the Capital on the 30th will include Col. J. J. Cook, the New York Attorney, Richard W. Gilder, editor of the Century Magazine; Dr. Nicholas M. Butler, president of Columbia College, and James Bertram, Mr. Carnegie's private secretary.

Premier Whitney deserves praise for his proposed legislation to raise the salaries of Ontario teachers, particularly in rural districts. These salaries have been injuriously inadequate for a long time past. The Province will give larger grants, contingent on the school trustees giving better remuneration. Thanks, Mr. Whitney!

We made reference a couple of weeks ago to the resignation of Rev. D. Stiles Fessenden of the manse of the Presbyterian Witness. It is now announced that Rev. George S. Carson, B.A., minister of Knox Church, Pictou, will be manager and associate editor, while continuing in the pastorate. Mr. Carson has already proved his ability as a writer so that the editorial pages, always well up to the mark, will be still further strengthened, and the Witness made increasingly useful to its large circle of readers. Our contemporary and its long time editor Dr. Murray and his associate editor, have our best wishes in their important work.

PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER AT WASHINGTON.

Press dispatches from Washington say that Justice John M. Harlan has told the Assembly and New York Avenue Presbyterian congregations in that city that if they will unite, he will retire from the supreme bench at once and devote his remaining active years to the task of raising the funds necessary for the erection of the great Presbyterian minister in the national capital on which the venerable jurist has set his heart. One principal objection made to the minister project when it was first advanced was the difficulty of determining its relation to existing churches in the city of Washington. The merger which Justice Harlan proposes would afford the local foundation for his ideal and remove the objection referred to. It is said that the churches to whom the proposal is made regard it favorably.

At a banquet of the Educational Department of the Central Y.M.C. Association, Toronto, last week, the Hon. G. W. Ross was given a great reception on rising to speak. In his inspiring address he urged the young men to keep up the general culture of the mind, even in these days when specialization was a feature in education. He hoped Canadians would learn to speak good English, and to do this they should keep their general conversation free from slang. He urged them to read history and to know the story of Canada thoroughly. History helped to make good, intelligent citizens. They should read poetry. By the poetry men read one could judge their character and their temperament. Poetry had a charm of its own, and exercised a refining effect on men, often beautifying their lives.

Mr. Ross exemplifies in his own person advice he gave the young men. In all his public utterances the ex-premier of Ontario shows habits of wide reading and careful study. No public man in Canada, so far as we know, can make happier literary allusions or more telling quotations than can Mr. Ross. And his English is always as good as the best.

Major G. W. Stephens, M.P.P., voluntarily spent three hours last week in a cell in the Montreal jail eight feet by seven feet, with one small window high up in a corner and containing five other prisoners. The building, he points out, is 70 years old, with walls crumbling, woodwork rotten, cell walls like punk, galleries leaning over, floors belching out impurities of 70 years' accumulation, and wards in total darkness from sundown to sunrise. But, worst iniquity of all, fifty-five prisoners, from ten to sixty-five years old, and accused of all manner of crimes, from stealing a loaf of bread, or wrongly accused, to the vilest specimen of immorality and crime, are all herded in one room, and likely to be there for probably six months at a time. It is a disgrace to the citizens of Montreal that such a state of affairs can be truthfully reported of their jail. Let them take immediate steps to have the stigma removed.

The death is announced of Robert A. Grant, barrister, of Toronto, which sad event took place on Monday night after a brief illness. It seems only a day or two ago since Mr. Grant was in this city, appearing before the Insurance Commission in the interest of a client. He was the eldest son of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Grant, of Orillia, who, along with the other relatives, will have the heart-felt sympathy of many friends in their bereavement. Mr. Grant was for several years an active member and office-bearer in St. James' Square Presbyterian Church, and although a young man had already won for himself a distinguished place in his profession. His wife pre-deceased him on December last, and he leaves two boys, scarcely old enough to realize the great loss they have sustained in the removal of father and mother.

THE REASON IS CLEAR.

A correspondent of the British Weekly, commending an article which appeared in that journal on "Roman Catholicism and Liberty," says: "Although this is a subject of first importance to Great Britain at the present crisis of educational affairs, the apathy of the Press as a whole is deplorable. Ever since the Oxford Tractarian movement began there has been a subtle and insidious undermining of Protestantism going on in England which is dangerous to the nation in precise proportion as its progress is underground and unobserved. The blight of priestcraft has always proved one of the worst evils that can afflict a people; and in England, as elsewhere, it has more than once goaded us into sanguinary revolution. The reason is clear. Liberty and priestcraft are deadly foes. As national ideals they are utterly incompatible, and no nation can serve two masters. As you say, Romanism as a religion is one thing, but Ultramontanism as a policy is quite another. "We are Catholics," said some Italian friends to me in Rome, "but we are not Vaticanites. The Pope is our chief pastor, but not our King." This is a distinction we English sometimes lose sight of, but it is vital. That able monarch, the present King of Italy, understands this, hence his declared policy is "respect the clergy, but keep them within their altar rails." It is in pursuance of this policy that it became necessary both in Italy and in France to keep the priest outside the State school. We are confronted with the same necessity in England.

Here in Canada, as in Britain, the party press can not afford to speak out on questions affecting Roman Catholicism. It might cost votes. Hence the press on both sides is shackled.

THREE STRONG OBJECTIONS.

Says the Pioneer: There are three independent facts to be considered in connection with the proposal now before the Legislature to make the polling of a three-ninths vote necessary to secure the adoption of a local option by-law. They are the following:

1. It takes away from the people of Ontario rights which they have enjoyed for many years and which have never been abused, and confers upon the liquor traffic special new protection and power which have never been given to it before.
2. It emphatically and definitely declares that in law-making power the vote of a man interested in liquor-selling must be counted of more weight and effect than the vote of a man who does not favor the bar-room system. Sixty-seven liquor sellers and their friends will be enabled to outvote any hundred citizens who vote to have the traffic restrained and its evils minimized.
3. It will block the progress of temperance reform that has been going on steadily for many years, and prevent the closing up of bar-rooms in many municipalities in which a substantial majority of the best citizens desire to have them closed for the protection of their families and their homes.

"There is every evidence that the Government means business as regards the bill," said Rev. J. G. Shearer to a Toronto newspaper reporter, with reference to the Lord's Day Act now before the Dominion House. Mr. Shearer has just returned from Ottawa, and he says that there is strong likelihood of the bill going through all right. The dissatisfaction that arose at first among the Quebec members was due to a misunderstanding, and after hearing Mr. Fitzpatrick's speech on the second reading all their fears were removed. Mr. Shearer is very much encouraged by the speeches of the Premier, the Minister of Justice and other members, and as the bill is a Government measure, and the Opposition members are committed to it, its passage he thinks, seems certain.