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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,

Manager and Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1908

It gives us pleasure to announce that
Rev. Dr. J. G. Shearer has so far recov-
ered from his recent illness as to be able
to leave for the Maritime provinces.

Alfred Noyes' Epic, called Drake, is
concluded in the June number of Black-
woods, having run as a serial for some
months. Hugh Clifford's striking sketch,
Saleh, is to be continued. This is the
story, probably a true one, of a Malay
prince who was educated in England
and returned to his home to meet condi-
tions opposite in all points to those he
had grown accustomed to in his foster
country. The story is one of absorbing
and realistic interest. Most interesting,
too, is a sketch called One Night, de-
scribing a night of alarm in the Boer
war. We mention only a few of the at-
tractive features of this number.

The June Contemporary presents
the usual varied table of contents
and well-known contributions. Sir
Oliver Lodge writes on Common
Sense About Brewing and the Bill;
Sidney Webb on The Necessary
Basis of Society; H. E. P. Plat, on Ox-
ford in the Sixties, and Sir W. M. Ram-
say on The Carnegie Trust and Scottish
Universities. Hon. Stephen Coleridge
has a strong article against Vivisection,
in which he tries to show that those dis-
eases in regard to which vivisection has
been used have been gradually growing
more fatal, while those that have escap-
ed the care of the vivisection and have
been left to the ministrations of the
kindly physician only steadily decrease
in fatality. Dr. Dillon's review of For-
eign Affairs is as readable as usual, and
the Literary Supplement, a somewhat
new feature of the magazine, grows in
interest.

**QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AND THE
CHURCH.**

There is a widespread feeling that
the resolution carried at the last As-
sembly, relating to Queen's University
is not likely to settle the matter for
any considerable length of time. It
would probably have been better to
have appointed a committee or com-
mission of the Assembly to confer with
the university authorities as to the
necessary changes and the best means of
carrying them out so as to continue
the vital connection between the Pres-
byterian Church and the university,
while placing the latter in a position
to take advantage of the present op-
portunity for increasing its resources.
The doctrine preached on the floor of
the Assembly that the Supreme Court
of the Presbyterian Church can control
the action of the University authori-
ties and yet repudiate responsibility as
to its financial needs—this doctrine,
however plausibly put, is essentially
unreasonable and does not commend
itself to the ordinary mind. It is felt
more and more that the Church as an
organization can assume direct respon-
sibility only for theological education,
and the argument in this direction be-
comes all the more powerful when we
bear in mind that the number of Theo-
logical colleges has recently been in-
creased by the action of the Assembly.
We must remember that Queen's Uni-
versity has never been, except at the
very beginning of its existence, en-
tirely supported by Presbyterians;
they have, of course, played the lead-
ing part, but a large share has been
done by others. This is as it should
be. A large institution that is doing
an important work in the educational
life of the Province and of the Do-
minion is worthy of general support.
And we believe that if the work of the
University is maintained, at its present
standard many citizens of all religious
communities will show their sympathy
with it.

The Theological Faculty of Queen's
has received a yearly contribution
from the Church, in return for which
it has taken its share in the prepara-
tion of men for the important work of
the ministry. This will continue al-
though the relations of the Theological
Faculty to the University may need
careful consideration under the new
circumstances. It does not necessarily
follow that any very radical change
need take place in this respect. Under
an amended constitution the Theo-
logical Faculty may be an integral part
of the University or in close affiliation
with it. The whole matter calls for
careful consideration in which heated
rhetoric should only play a very small
part. Many cases arise in which we
have a sentimental regret that any
change is necessary; that kind of senti-
ment—that tender clinging to the past—
is always to be respected; but the facts
of the case must be considered all round.
We are convinced that the Presbyterian
Church will rise to the occasion and deal
with a large matter in a large and gen-
erous spirit; and we are sure, also, that
broad-minded Presbyterians will con-
tinue to be interested in higher educa-
tion and in Queen's as an institution
doing an important work.

CONCERNING MODERN PROPHETS

By Knoxonian.

"That girl will never make a sensible
woman," says the prophet of evil. Miss
Melinda Frisky, of whom this was said,
quieted down as she came near twenty,
married a sensible young man, took
good care of her home, trained her fam-
ily well, became an excellent member
of the Church, a useful member of so-
ciety, and in all respects one of the
most worthy and respected women in
the community. The prophets of evil
were wrong in their predictions.

"That boy will never amount to any-
thing," says the prophet of evil with an
air of wisdom that neither Solomon, nor
Solon, nor Socrates ever dared to as-
sume. That boy goes to school, works
hard, studies a profession, and at fifty
is one of the leading men of the coun-
try. The prophet of evil was wrong
again.

"That new firm won't stand long,"
says old Shylock, who thinks no young
man should dare to start in business
without asking his leave. Push and
Pull, work hard, live economically,
treat the public well, and in a few years
become one of the leading firms of the
town. The prophet of evil was wrong
again.

Prophets of good are just as likely to
be wrong as prophets of evil. The man
who predicts good things is a much
more amiable man than the prophets
of evil, but his predictions are just as
liable to be wrong. In fact, prophesying
is the most uncertain business in this
country, and that is saying a good
deal. If the list of unfulfilled predic-
tions made in Canada alone in the last
forty years by our wisest men could be
written out, the volume would probably
be the largest one in the country. If
the list of those made by fools could
be published, the country would scarce-
ly contain it.

Forty years ago our politicians brought
the political affairs of old Canada to a
deadlock. To put matters right they
devised the present Confederation
Scheme. The air was filled with glow-
ing predictions about the marvellous re-
sults that Confederation would bring
about in a few years. There were also
predictions on the other side. A great
many people predicted that the Nova
Scotians would fight if they were forced
into the Confederacy. The prophets on
both sides were wrong. Confederation
did not bring half of the benefits that
were predicted, and the Blue Noses
didn't fight. A good many people, not
by any means fools, have grave doubts
as to whether Confederation ever will
accomplish the hundredth of what its
promoters predicted forty odd years ago.

If anybody wishes to see a splendid
illustration of how really great men fail
in the realm of prophecy, let him read
the speeches made in the British House
of Commons during, and a few years
prior to, the American Revolution. How
many of the predictions made about the
revolting colonists have been fulfilled?
The neighboring Republic, the second
greatest English-speaking nation in the
world, gives the answer.

Years ago, one of the best public men
that ever served in Canada, the Hon.