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Manager and Editor

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16, 1910

The Cumberland Presbyterian tells us that the question of Presbyterian union is forever settled in the state of California. Attorneys for the anti-unionists petitioned the Supreme Court for a rehearing, but the petition was refused on January 22, and the case cannot be opened again.

Brantford has now 2,229 foreigners in its midst, and last year they contributed 165 cases to its police courts. The home mission problem evidently belongs to Ontario as well as to the prairie provinces. It always seems a little easier, however, to get enthusiastic over foreigners when they are far away. The ones at our own doors somehow do not seem as good objects for enthusiasm. And yet they are the same people.

We have just received the provisional programme for the next Alumni Conference of Queen's University. This, the 19th annual conference, will be held October 24 to October 28 of this year. The speakers for the popular evening lectures are as follows: President Falconer, of Toronto University; Dr. Andrew Macphail, of McGill; Dr. Bonar, deputy master of the mint, and Mr. A. H. U. Colquhoun, deputy minister of education. Dean Cappon has been appointed to the Chancellor's lectureship.

The number of students entered in the Ewart Missionary Deaconess Training Home, Toronto, for 1909-10 is seventeen. Of these two went to India in December, one dropped out on account of ill-health, one a nurse returned to her profession, leaving thirteen in residence at the present time. Of these eleven belong to Ontario, two to Manitoba, two to Quebec, one to Prince Edward Island, and one to Scotland. Seven of the young ladies are in training for Foreign work, six for Home work. Two will have completed their course of two years the coming spring.

## PRESSING TOWARD THE MARK.

Most of us talk more or less about "turning over a new leaf" with the beginning of the year, or on our birthday, or some such anniversary. The "old leaf" is not pleasant to look upon. It is blurred and blotted. There are imperfections here and mistakes there. Some of the lines we should be glad to permanently erase. Even if the sins whose impress it bears have been blotted out and are remembered no more against us, it is still a sad and humiliating record. The best of us cannot look upon it without a sigh for the past and a prayer for help and guidance in the future.

It is well to make good resolutions, even though we know that heretofore we have signally failed to keep them. In our own strength we are certain to fail. If these failures lead us to God, they are not wholly in vain. Paul gives us from his own rich experience a key to the secret of his mastery over self. He was accustomed to make good resolutions. "This one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things that are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Past failure with him were therefore only stepping stones to success. His pressing forward was a part of that mysterious training in grace whereby human weakness was lifted into contact with divine strength. It enabled the same man who once cried out in bitterness of soul, "O wretched man that I am; who shall deliver me from the body of this death!" to exclaim in full assurance of faith, "I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ our Lord?" It is the secret of that triumphant song of victory which the old warrior sends down to the listening ages after his long conflict with sin: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day."

Let us, then "turn over the new leaf" thoughtfully, reverently, prayerfully. As yet it is white and unblotted. Only the constant and present help of the Holy Spirit can keep it so. The Saviour has declared that God is more willing to bestow this supremest mark of His fatherly affection than earthly parents are to give gifts to their children. Heaven help us all so to "hunger and thirst after righteousness" that "the new leaf" of the coming period may show that we are indeed "growing in grace and in the knowledge of the truth."

Mr. Byron E. Walker, president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, finds a reason for the high cost of living in too many people leaving the farm and going to the towns and cities. And probably it is not far wrong to put this down as one of the causes.

"Germany's Real Attitude Toward England," a subject which was much under discussion during the recent English elections, when Unionists made all the political capital possible out of the German bogey, is considered from the German point of view by Charles Tuchmann, in an article which The Living Age for February 12 reprints from The Nineteenth Century.

## INDOOR PLEASURES.

These winter evenings ought to be made attractive in our homes. We cannot confidently expect that the boys and girls will delight in their own domiciles if life there be dull, monotonous, and humdrum. The older people may, most of all, enjoy the opportunity for repose and quiet which the long evenings bring, but the young "hear the days before them," and the tumult of their lives, and they cannot be satisfied to sit still and dream. In many things the parents of young ladies and gentlemen ought to continue the practice of the same kinds of self-sacrifice which were easy when the young ladies and gentlemen were habes in arms. Not now can the mother gather them close to her bosom and kiss away all their troubles. The father can no longer lift and carry these grown-up children over all the rough places to which they come. Trials, temptations, great evils, they must meet and face alone, but for the help which frail mortality receives only from God. Still, in this critical period of their being there is much that parents can do to guide the younger ones and facilitate their progress. One great safeguard around an immature life is a happy home. I do not mean one which is a mere negation, but a home that has emphasis, colour, tone, sprightliness, and an air of being alert and alive. Something going on, something in which everybody can share, is an immense benefit to the eager lad or lass who has begun to pine for the stimulus of more exciting pleasures than the daily round of living imports.

A craving for constant excitement is, of course, morbid and unwholesome, and is apt to be followed by weariness and disgust. But a spice of innocent fun is like the flavor in a cake. It redeems the mass from sweet insipidity. While it is very pleasant to see a family united in loving bonds, and satisfied with each other's company, still a sort of neighborhood sociability is a most desirable thing. Let the young people of a place form an association, and meet weekly for mutual enjoyment and mental cultivation. They will have an organization of some sort, for though nothing is helped by too much machinery, nothing succeeds which is not managed by some co-operative ability. They will select a president, a secretary and other officers, and they will have their committees for music, for literature, and for business. Such a band of young people will find many ways in which they can improve themselves, and in which they can have good times. They will have essays, debates, musical soirees, and festive reunions in each other's homes. They will so use the winter that they will feel that solid gains have been accumulated when it has passed away.

In the home circle games and innocent diversions may be encouraged. The family who love music will find in it a never-failing source of interest. The cabinet organ and the piano are blessings to many a household. Once and for all, let me urge on the heads of families the beneficence of light, plenty of light, these winter evenings. Economize where you will, but do not cut off the supply of gas or kerosene. Gloomy, vault-like living-rooms, passages through which you grope in the dark, are wonderful helpers of Satan. Light the great lamp and let its cheerful beams scatter the shadows from hearts as well as walls. Bring in the nuts and apples, or the basket of spice-cakes, before the evening is over. The act of eating in common has always a charm about it, and the coming in of refreshments usually does away with stiffness in the stiffest of social parties.