

The Dominion Presbyterian

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

With this issue The Dominion Presbyterian ceases publication. The uncertain health of the Publisher (if there were no other reasons) renders this step not only necessary but imperative. We take leave of our subscribers with regret. For many years (in not a few cases for nearly forty) our intercourse with them has been exceedingly pleasant, and we shall greatly miss accustomed tasks and old associations.

Arrangements have been made with the Presbyterian Witness, of Halifax, an excellent family paper with a splendid record of more than 60 years, to complete the term of pre-paid subscribers, who will receive the Witness until the expiry of their subscription, and thereafter if they so desire it.

All of our subscribers will be furnished with several copies of The Presbyterian Witness, and we trust that in thousands of homes it will be retained as a welcome weekly visitor. The price of The Presbyterian Witness is \$1.35 per annum, payable STRICTLY IN ADVANCE, so that a prompt remittance is needed if a continuance of the paper is desired. In this connection it should be mentioned that church news and notes of interest will be furnished by the editor of The Dominion Presbyterian, thus insuring a feature (only one, however, among many) that will make The Presbyterian Witness attractive and useful to readers in Quebec, Ontario and West.

Accounts will at once be forwarded to all subscribers in arrears, and the Publisher looks for an immediate response, as the business must be closed out without delay. Please note: All renewals go to The Presbyterian Witness, Halifax; arrears of subscriptions to The Dominion Presbyterian, P. O. Drawer 563, Ottawa.

And now we have to tender our hearty thanks to contributors, Presbyterian clerks, brother editors, and numerous friends who in various ways aided us in our work during all these years; and to all we wish the compliments of the holiday season, and a very happy New Year.

No Christmas gift is a true gift if it is not given in the spirit of Christ.

We trust that our readers will set themselves squarely against two things: the notion that one must give a Christmas present to every one of his friends, and the equally futile one that it is better to give a stupid and useless present than to give none. Foolish presents discredit Christmas. Gifts that are meant to pay debts or to buy friendship are a poor affair—unscriptural, unchristian, unavailing, unmeaning. Give sensibly and generously or not at all.

CHRISTMAS.

What is it? A celebration of the coming of Christ. But whence came He? He was born of a woman, born in a manger and nursed and reared in a Jewish home. But was that all? Was He simply of human kind? Was He merely the greatest teacher of a race of religious teachers? A superior prophet? Was this the whole of His coming? And is this the whole of what we celebrate? Or did the Christ come through agencies and powers which are greater than those found in the material process?

How does the story read? Is the proclamation of His coming from below or from above? From above. There are angel voices and angel visits. The proclamation of peace and good will to men, which we repeat so much and which has so thrilled the heart of the world and so rebuked the brutal passion of war, was not spoken by men, but by angels. There was the power of God's Holy Spirit, the overshadowing, creative power of the Spirit that moved in the first creation. The story of the four gospels is a story of the supernatural. He rises from the dead. He ascends into heaven. He fulfills His last promise to His disciples and sends the Holy Spirit. By the help of the Divine Spirit His followers begin to proclaim His gospel to the world and to call men to repentance and faith. Thus the story runs through the New Testament and closes in the visions of a heavenly world and a home of redeemed souls.

And this is the only story which we have of Jesus Christ. There is no other story. There are inventions of modern thought and fiction of fine philosophy, or clever interpretation, but they are only fictions. The Christ of the New Testament is the only historical Christ whom we have. And the faith of this Christ of the New Testament has made the Christianity which has changed the face of the world.

Rev. Dr. H. W. Fraser, of the First church, Vancouver, appears to be a great favorite with young couples contemplating matrimony. During the past six years, according to the Winnipeg Free Press, he has officiated at 1,062 marriages.

The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago is broadening its work for women by a course of training for deaconesses, which will be introduced with the new year. It will add to the present instruction in the Bible, Gospel music and Christian work, a systematic course of instruction in household science, domestic arts, industrial work for children, and nursing as well as the discussion of practical social problems from the New Testament point of view. Like its other work, all this will be free to students of every denomination, and from every part of the world.

Writing from Mukden, a correspondent of the North China "Daily News" says: "The opium poppy now seems to be extinct throughout the whole of Manchuria, unless, as rumor has it, certain patches may be found in the Yenching region, where in remote mountain valleys some is said to be still grown, and is easily smuggled into Korea and Vladivostok, to which many old and confirmed gamblers and opium smokers resort. One hopes that Japan will soon see her way to handle the Chinese opium trade in Korea with a strong hand and also that Russia will wake up to the fact that her many thousands of Chinese residents would be much better off if she were more severe with the opium smokers and chronic gamblers."

FOREIGN MISSION FUND.

The condition of this fund is far from satisfactory. The statement to Nov. 30th. shows receipts of \$3,000 more and expenditure of \$16,500 more than at the same date last year. This naturally causes anxiety. The work is expanding but is also being retarded by lack of funds. There is urgent need for improving our equipment. The church at home is growing in wealth. Prosperity is writ large all over the Dominion; only a few districts of the west having suffered through poor crops. Farmers are in receipt of very greatly increased incomes over a few years ago but have been slow to exhibit larger liberality toward the work of the Lord. Business and professional men are also sharing in the rapidly growing wealth of the country. All classes, except perhaps, those on fixed salaries, are in danger of acting as though "my power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth." We need to sound out clearly and strong the warning of Deut. 8:18, "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth."

We decline to think that the Foreign Mission Committee will not receive the \$234,000 authorized by the Assembly for this year but the stubborn fact of only \$3,000 increase in receipts for the past nine months and an absolutely necessary increase in expenditure of over \$16,000 is somewhat alarming. Will ministers and elders kindly see that their people are informed of the great need and inspiring success of the work in Korea, China, India and Formosa? Will ministers also have forwarded at once all money for the schemes now in hand?

A STARTLING STATEMENT.

It has been said by those who have investigated the matter carefully that, although at the age of 45, fully 80 per cent. of men are established in whatever pursuit they follow and are in receipt of incomes in excess of their expenditure, at the age of 60 it has been found that 95 per cent. are dependent upon their daily earnings, or upon their children for support. Many, no doubt, read the despatch from Detroit which recently appeared in the Canadian papers, and which described the condition of a man who but a little more than forty years ago was a "financial power" in that city, who had a "palatial home" on one of the most fashionable thoroughfares, entertained lavishly, and to whom every person, high and low, was prepared to pay homage. But the fates were against him. He suffered serious financial losses, and when he began to go down hill he found it was properly greased for the occasion. His friends deserted him like rats from a sinking ship, and now at 80 years of age, after his day's labor, he wends his way to the city with the bent, broken down old men who have influence enough to have their names on the city's pay roll.

The moral is that out of your abundance something should be laid aside for declining years, and invested where thieves cannot reach it, and where one cannot be deprived of it in any possible way. This means is afforded you under the Canadian Government Annuities Act which the Parliament of Canada passed in the Session 1908, and which received the unanimous support of both sides of the House.

You may get all information by applying at the Post Office, or by addressing the Superintendent of Annuities, Ottawa.