

## The Ministry of the Religious Paper.

This important subject is so well set forth in the following sentences, gleaned from an exchange, that we commend them to our readers: "A religious paper should be in every home, and by this we mean a denominational paper representing the church to which the family may belong. It should be read by every member in the home who can read. Parents who fail to provide the home with such a paper are recreant to a sacred obligation, the fulfilment of which is essential to good influence in the home. It is better to be deprived of some things which may be considered 'necessaries' than to be without good reading."

"The church member who does not read his denominational paper will soon become shrivelled, narrow, anti-missionary, and then go into 'innocuous desuetude.' On the other hand, a church member who reads, and becomes an agent in his church for a religious paper, is a benefactor. He is performing a service for Christ and the Church which is second to none. A pastor who will from time to time call the attention of his people to important articles, special numbers, and will urge upon his congregation the value and need of taking a religious paper, and will then follow it up with a little earnest solicitation, will strengthen himself among them. They will become informed, appreciative and responsive to the denomination and to Christ."

True, every word! May we not expect that many ministers and office-bearers will aid us in our efforts to secure for THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN a wide circulation at once. The low price at which it is offered places it within the reach of every one; while the quantity and useful nature of its contents make it a desirable visitor to every home.

## Presbyterian College, Montreal.

We direct special attention to the circular of Mr. David Morrice, Chairman of the College Board, which appears in another column. The friends of the College from the first have shown most commendable liberality in supporting it, and we feel safe in saying that it merits all and more than all that has been done in this respect. We trust, therefore, that the response to the present appeal may be entirely satisfactory. This is the season for gifts and thank-offerings. Let them flow freely into the treasury of this most deserving institution.

The College, which is under the control of the General Assembly, offers to theological students educational advantages of the highest order. The buildings adjoining the beautiful campus of McGill University, their admirable equipments, the library of thirteen thousand volumes, containing the most recent standard works, the teaching staff of five professors and four lecturers, all specialists in their respective departments, and the marked success in church work which the alumni of past years have achieved, fully justify this statement. The Province of Quebec, Eastern Ontario, the Home Mission fields of the Northwest and many other parts of the Dominion, have been greatly benefited by the institution. It is a potent factor in the Church life of the city, and nearly one-half of the ministers of the six Presbyteries which constitute the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa have been trained within its halls, while its usefulness in educating French pastors, evangelists and teachers cannot be too strongly emphasized.

The growth of Presbyterianism in the area just referred to during the last quarter of a century is very noteworthy, and in no small measure due to the existence and efficiency of the College.

When Dr. MacVicar, who has been its Principal from its inception, was inducted as pastor of Cote Street (now Crescent Street) Church, as successor to the late Dr. Donald Fraser, of London, Eng., the Presbytery of Montreal consisted of twenty ministers, and now it has sixty-three, although not occupying half the territory then within its bounds. Then

there were in the city only seven Presbyterian Churches, all told, including the American Church, now there are twenty, counting English and French.

These figures are significant. But we are most deeply impressed by the progress of secular and theological education. The Protestant schools in Montreal thirty years ago numbered only five or six, and now they are planted in all parts of the city in first-class buildings, and give a thorough elementary education to some ten or twelve thousand pupils. The High Schools for boys and girls take rank among the foremost in Canada. McGill University has in the last few years received from citizens of Montreal several millions of dollars in buildings and endowments.

The Methodist, Congregational and Episcopal Churches are steadily advancing. Their buildings are highly creditable to the city and are lasting monuments to the liberality of the bodies to which they belong.

The Royal Victoria College for Ladies, the princely gift of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, without a rival in this country as to the completeness of its appointments, and will be opened next autumn.

With this onward movement on all hands why should not our own Presbyterian College receive two or three hundred thousand dollars? This is what is urgently needed for its full and proper equipment and to enable it in future as in the past, to take the lead among the four Theological Seminaries affiliated with the University.

## The Billeting System.

The Billeting System has had its day. It is evident that it must soon cease to be, at least so far as the meetings of our General Assembly are concerned. Presbyteries are now considering an overture to reduce the representation of the General Assembly from one-fourth to one-sixth, and to make provision for a central fund to pay the expenses of commissioners. The overture certainly deserves the support of all the Presbyteries. The present large representation makes our Supreme Court an unwieldy body and with the growth of the church this evil is year by year being aggravated. On the other hand there is no interest that will not be fully conserved by the smaller representation. Then, too, with a smaller body it would be possible to have an expense fund. But as the matter now stands the thing cannot be done. In any case it seems absolutely certain that the billeting system will be abolished not later than a year from next June. So mote it be.

The annual statistics of "The Alliance of Reformed Churches holding the Presbyterian system" shows that it includes eighty distinct bodies, with a total membership of 4,627,000, and almost 30,000 congregations.

Mrs. John MacGillivray, B.A., is doing excellent work as editor of the Foreign Missionary Tidings. She is proving herself a most worthy successor to Mrs. G. H. Robinson, who for many years so successfully edited this useful publication.

To the young farmer on the lone prairie, perhaps far from Sabbath ordinances, the Dominion Presbyterian, with its columns of fresh religious reading, in reminding him of lessons taught of the fields of golden grain ripening for the harvest, would be a welcome visitor from week to week. Sent to a friend for a year, will cost you only one dollar.

The Commission of the Established Church of Scotland has agreed to nominate Rev. John Pagan, D.D., of Bothwell, as Moderator of its next General Assembly. The Commission of the Free Church of Scotland has agreed to nominate Rev. James Stewart, D.D., for many years the president of the well-known missionary Training Institute at Lovedale, Cape Colony. The Moderator of the English Synod will probably be Dr. John Watson, of Liverpool.

The semi-official announcement is made that the honor of knighthood is to be conferred on Mr. W. C. McDonald, on the occasion of the formal opening of the new Chemistry and Mining Building, his latest gift to the University. Mr. McDonald's gifts to McGill have been so munificent that our readers everywhere will rejoice if the report should turn out to be correct, and that this distinction has been so worthily bestowed.

Perhaps no more popular, and we may add, certainly no more useful Christmas present, has come under our notice, than the Warnicke Elastic Book-case, for which the William Drysdale Company are the sole agents. The book-case can be bought at a price to suit any purse, and when placed in position forms an attractive feature in any room. The William Drysdale Company have also on exhibition a large stock of beautiful cards, booklets, and well-bound books suitable for Christmas and New Year's gifts.

The British Weekly having dealt in an interesting fashion with the "Christian Scientists" is now handling the question of "Palmistry." There seems to be a revival of superstition, and it is clearly the duty of influential journals to warn their readers against the fads and frauds which are so common. So long as there are weak-minded victims there will be clever scoundrels who "live by their wits" and who find an easy prey in the ignorant and credulous. The more people know the real meaning of "Science" and "Christianity," the less likely will they be to be carried away by such follies.

The corrupt state of the religious world in Spain may be judged from a recent remarkable enactment of the Spanish Minister of Justice to the effect that all pensions granted to nuns in 1837 shall henceforth be null and void, except where the party interested can be proved to be alive. The reason of this is that in that year it was provided that every nun at that time living should have a pension for life, and that since then not a single death has been notified by the Roman Catholic authorities to the Government! As the oldest nun in 1837 was seventy years of age, the Spanish Minister is growing sceptical about her existence.

We hope in our next issue to review the Rev. Principal King's book on "In Memoriam." In the meantime it is interesting to note that the French are beginning to pay more attention to Tennyson, and that Mr. Leon Morel has turned the English of "In Memoriam" into French, and transposed Tennyson's octo-syllables into French Alexandrines. The translator has accomplished, in a fashion, an almost impossible task, but it is easy for the reviewer (in Literature) to give examples of "perfect exactitude of rendering combined with absolute nullity of poetic effect." It would be a good exercise for some of our young readers to find Tennyson's English for this couplet:

"La sac au loud boulet qui lui fait un suaire  
Plonge ou vaste tombeau des flots toujours  
mouvants."

In a recent issue of "Literature" there is a review of the "Korean Sketches" of Rev. J. S. Gale, in the course of which the reviewer says: "It is comparatively a long while since Korea was so much before the world. Luckily these sketches are sufficiently interesting to stand in no need of adventitious aids. Mr. Gale has been for more than ten years a member of the American Presbyterian Mission, which has done so much for Korea, and he seems to have succeeded in penetrating beneath the surface of native manners. He was practically the first foreigner who ventured to take up his residence outside the Korean capital; and so had every opportunity of seeing the natives untouched by external influences. Mr. Gale's sense of humor makes him a very entertaining companion in such a chapter as that on 'The Korean Boy,' etc."