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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, Feb. 4 1903.

We remind our readers that the fiscal year of the Church now ends on the 28th inst. The books of the Treasurer close promptly on that day and only contributions that are received by Rev. Dr. Warden, Toronto, on or before the afternoon of Saturday, 28th February will be included in the accounts of the year and the detailed statement of receipts to be submitted to the General Assembly.

PRIESTCRAFT.

It has been common enough for Pro- testants to attribute many of the woes of Ireland to priestcraft, and any repetition of the charge from that quarter would likely pass unnoticed or create very little sensation. But because Mr. McCarthy's book came from one who professed to love and honour the church it aroused considerable excite- ment. The author of "Five Years in Ire- land" does not denounce the priests as priests, and has nothing to say against the creed of the church. But he regards it as priestcraft, an influence harmful both to the people and the church, when the ecclesiastics control the whole life of the people. Three departments of that life we may mention: Education of the young, the administration of church affairs and politics. In Ireland the priests are supreme in the first two, and exert a powerful influence in the third. The author of this interesting book would keep the priests as a body in a subordinate place; he even demands that laymen should take a share in managing the affairs of the church, as is the case in the Presbyterian and Anglican churches. Then he tells us the church would be purer, nobler and more in- fluential in the spiritual sense, Ireland would be less oppressed with ignorance and superstition and that distracted country would make a better showing among the nations of the world. All that is, we believe, very true; but in that case the church would cease to be *Roman* while becoming more *Christian*—a reformation from within that we would all like to see, but which we are afraid is still in the distant future.

A FIERY SERMON.

The Archbishop of Montreal gave on Sunday January 25th his first "sermon" in the cathedral, since his return from Europe. It does not answer to our idea of a sermon in which the Christian pastor teaches and in- spires his flock; it shows that this Roman prelate comes back from his visit to the Vatican filled with new zeal and determined to do his duty, that duty however leads to a discourse which is mainly negative and denunciatory.

(1) On the question of a public library. In the Archbishop's opinion there are plenty of libraries in Montreal where the public can find all the intellectual food that they need. "I will say as Archbishop and as citizen that Montreal is rich enough not to ask alms of a foreign millionaire."

(2) I have said that the question of the Manitoba schools is not settled. In saying this I do not wish to make political capital for any party. I have stated an indisput- able truth. Who can say that a question involving such interests, liberties and rights, as this question is definitively settled before liberty and rights have been re-established. The Sovereign Pontiff thinks as we do on this matter. I know very well that the situation of the minority has been improved but the law remains the same."

Then note the tone of the following passage and how Paul, Archbishop of Mont- real, appears as a sort of Canadian pope: "In bringing up this indisputable truth that the school question is not definitely settled I have no intention to upset the country any more than the Pope has the intention of setting Europe on fire when he protests on all occasions against the spoliation of the pontifical domain. Like Leo XII we affirm the right, we make our prayers for the triumph of justice, while we wait the favor- able hour for action."

(3) In the third place the Archbishop states that one of the newspapers, which he does not yet name, has been doing bad work, praising various infidel and wicked writers. The archbishop has given kindly warning and if there is no improvement he will take severe measures, and so on.

All this is very interesting, and while ad- miring the piety and zeal of the preacher we can also rejoice that the settlement of school, library and other questions, are not left entirely in his hands. If our liberty is to be preserved in Canada, the rights of all must be respected; and the churches must train men to do right because they know it is right, and not simply because it is com- manded by authority. The Roman church would not be suffering as it is in France to- day if it had shown more charity in earlier days.

The January Fortnightly shows its usual varied table of contents. The opening ar- ticle is "The Tory Creed and the Unionist Alliance." Several political questions are touched upon, and we have one article with reference to the war—"De Wet's Last Suc- cess." Music and literature find a place in "Richard Strauss, and the Music of the Future" and "Alfred de Vigny." Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York.

MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORP- HANS' FUND.

A circular has recently been issued by the convener showing the present unsatisfactory condition of this Fund and urgently appeal- ing to the congregations of the Church for largely increased contributions, so as to render unnecessary the reduction of the annuities in the Spring. According to this circular there is less than \$1,000 on hand to meet the annuities next month amounting to \$11,000. Personal letters have also been written to a number of friends throughout the Church inviting their co-operation and practical help.

The Rev. Dr. Warden gratefully acknow- ledges the following contributions already received in response to the appeal:— Mr. J. Penman, Paris, \$50.00; Mr. J. C. Holden, Montreal, \$25.00; Miss Inglis, Toronto, \$5.00; Mr. A. R. Goldie, Galt, \$10.00; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Henderson, Toronto, \$200.00; Mr. George Rutherford, Hamilton \$50.00; Mr. J. M. Gillo, Brock- ville, \$50.00.

POLITICAL CORRUPTION.

Political corruption is our shame and dis- grace. We admit that something ought to be done with regard to the personation prac- tised at the last referendum vote. He that steals a vote deserves to be sent to prison just as much as the man who steals one's money or goods. But the ground to be covered is bigger than this; and we think the vigorous articles in the Toronto News are justified, and that they will do good. To whatever party we belong we ought all of us to feel the greatest hatred for the corrup- tion which is proved to stick to our own party. This evil can only be dealt with in the common place method of each one cleaning his own door step. If wrong is done it is a public matter and should be dealt with as a public duty, and not as a mat- ter of private arrangement. The crop of protests after each election shows a wretch- ed condition of things. Something should be done to purify our political contests. Those who get up vexatious appeals should be made to pay the heavy cost. If the ap- peal to the courts is justified then there is something proved to be wrong and both the individual evil doers and the constituency should bear the blame and the punishment. Where corruption is proved on both sides the constituency might be disfranchised for a term, and so held up to public shame. This may seem a radical proposal but until some- thing radical and drastic is done there will be little improvement. This we know from the experience of England, the United States and other countries. The "saw off" should be made illegal and all facts, however ugly, should be fearlessly faced. When that comes to pass there will be a higher sense of honour all round, and we shall be more truly Christian both in public and private.

FOREIGN MISSION NOTES.

The Foreign Mission Committee met on January 27th and 28th.

There were present, Dr. Moore, Con- venger; Doctors, Mowatt, McFavish, Mac- Laren, Warden, Fraser, Milligan, Smith, MacKay, and Messrs. Martin, Currie, Jeff- rey, Cassels, and Wilson.

The principle item of business was the