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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, March 9 1904.

It is better to save a boy than convict a criminal.

All prayers which form part of Sabbath School exercises may safely err on the side of simplicity and reasonable brevity. There, as well as elsewhere, we shall not be heard for our much speaking.

In another column our readers will find the seventieth annual report of the British American Assurance Company. It shows another year of profitable business, and proves that this old established company continues to be managed with skill and judgment. The old board of directors was re-elected.

Four of the commissioners appointed by the Ottawa Presbytery last week to attend the meeting of the General Assembly at St. John, N.B., in June, are natives of the Maritime provinces, viz., Rev. N. A. McLeod, of Mackay church, New Edinburgh, Rev. D. B. McLeod of Billing's Bridge, Mr. Robert McConnell, of Stewarton church session, and Mr. M. McKinnon, of Knox church session. To both church and State the Maritime provinces furnish many able and useful men.

The Duke of Newcastle, writing to a meeting of Churchmen and Churchwomen held in Birmingham recently in support of the movement for Disestablishment, said—"It is high time that Churchmen, both clerical and lay, should awake to the fact that our present connection with the State is productive of ill which seriously cripples the power of the Church for good. I cannot see any practical remedy other than Disestablishment, although it is true we may have to pay a heavy price for the freedom we so earnestly desire." Such a remedy would doubtless be a heroic one, financially at least; but the resultant freedom would give the Anglican church, as an evangelizing and Christianizing agency, a power she can never wield under existing conditions.

TALK ABOUT UNION.

Has the union of the various Presbyterian branches into one Canadian Presbyterian church, and the union of the various Methodist branches into one Canadian Methodist church, shown the way to a union between the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches in Canada? Such an idea cannot by any means be regarded as the mere dream of dreamers when, as in the recent informal conference at Toronto, acknowledged leaders of the respective bodies, such as Rev. Drs. Caven and Warden, and Rev. Drs. Carman and Burwash, publicly declared both the desirability and feasibility of a union of forces. Canada has shown the way in the unions already referred to; and it may be safely said there are no greater difficulties requiring to be solved in the larger union spoken of than were overcome in the smaller unions to which allusion has been made.

For some time past there has been in operation between Presbyterians and Methodists a sort of indirect federal union as respects missionary operations in the North West. The result is that the two denominations are in constant consultation, to the end that no one preaching station should be overmanned, while another is left destitute of Gospel privileges; to the end, in other words, that the Lord's money should not be wasted.

It must be remembered the total of the population and wealth of older Canada is but a flea bite to the population and wealth of the Canada to be. The imperative problem before the Christian people of the Dominion to-day is how to keep pace with, and bring under strong religious influences, the surging crowds of new comers of various nationalities. A union of the brains and enthusiasms and resources to be found in the united Presbyterian, Congregational and Methodist bodies would mean a powerful combination for good.

No doubt many things would have to be carefully considered; and men of the type above mentioned are in the habit of bringing trained and steadied judgment to great problems. The biggest men in these bodies will be least likely to allow so-called vested rights or presumed personal interests to stand in the way of so great a consummation.

In New York city there are 125 Lutheran pastors, and they have formed an association for better acquaintance and useful co-operation. It strikes one oddly to learn that in New York there are fourteen different denominations of Lutherans!

An injunction suit was brought by a Roman Catholic priest against the school trustees of Brookville, Kentucky, asking that they and the teachers in the public school be restrained from reading the Bible and offering prayer in the schools, on the ground that it was a violation of the Constitution. Judge Harbeson in dismissing the petition at the cost of the plaintiff, says in unqualified terms, that the Bible is the foundation of all Christian governments, and he does not see how it is sectarian to read it in schools.

NEARING HOME.

When one has been absent from home, and perhaps reaches the home station late at night, and walks through the silent streets, hearing nothing but the echo of his own footsteps or that of the policeman who eyes him suspiciously as he goes past, it is wonderful how his steps instinctively quicken when they draw near the place where stands the house, one of thousands in the city streets, but one which he calls home. He thinks of the familiar rooms, but more than aught else he thinks of those who dwell there. Though the very furniture has grown to have a welcoming look, were it not for loving hearts who there await, it would be a desolate place. Is it any wonder then that the thought of life everlasting which most frequently appeals to us is that of the home into which we shall enter and there abide, and where we hope to see "faces loved long since, and lost awhile." And that is why when the shadows are falling we like to dwell upon the word of the Master, when he said, "I go to prepare a place for you, and I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also."

It is because He will be there, that we feel it not to be a strange place. If He were absent, then golden pave and flowing stream and fruitful tree would not suffice us. Even here it is when we are conscious that He is near to us that we know the deepest peace. And if we do not often know that peace, it is not that He is slow to make himself known, but because the mists of selfishness have blinded our eyes. "The pure in heart shall know God," and only they. Well may we pray, "Lord, open our eyes that we may see Thyself."

STATE OF THE FUNDS

The following are the receipts to the end of February, 1904:

	1903	1904
Home Mission Fund.....	\$108,207 80	113,419 55
Augmentation.....	24,117 7	23,728 62
Foreign Missions.....	39,362 06	55,575 00
French Evangelization.....	21,563 70	20,424 40
Pointe-aux-Trembles.....	10,067 86	9,753 29
Assembly.....	4,520 89	4,812 63
Widows & Orphans.....	11,781 74	10,767 80
Aged & Infirm Ministers.....	10,102 05	9,930 76
Knox College.....	6,945 92	6,032 09
Queen's College.....	2,953 83	3,127 80
Montreal College.....	2,825 02	2,865 90
Manitoba College.....	4,865 80	4,043 70

The receipts for the month of February were abnormally large and far beyond expectations. It will be observed that the total receipts are considerably in excess of last year. The expenditure for some of the funds has, however, been greatly beyond that of any preceding year. I hope next week to give a statement showing the actual state of the respective funds at the close of the year. It is very desirable that those congregations that have not sent contributions shall do so as soon as possible; and that all additional amounts may be received before the end of March.

R. H. W.

It looks strange to Canada, after our recent experiences, to read, in a letter from Denver, that the winter round about Denver will go down on record as a snowless winter.