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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, Jan. 21 1903.

CANADA TWENTY YEARS HENCE.

At the present rate of progression, Canada twenty years hence will be an important country. It is no mean country to-day. It has taken a new start. Its exhaustless natural resources are attracting the attention of the world. Capitalists from Britain and the United States are investing their millions; the eyes of the landless are being directed in this direction; and it may be safe to assume development and population will rapidly increase.

As to population, Canada cannot very well refuse men and women from all parts of Europe, though naturally preferring those who speak the English tongue. A large influx of people from England, seems probable in the near future; and we are every week hearing of settlers from the North-Western tier of the United States removing into the Canadian North West. This latter movement is not altogether to the liking of the newspapers of our neighbors. As they say, many of these settlers came from European countries the merest raw material of citizenship; they have been thrown into the hopper of free institutions; and now Canada gets the finished product! Clearly Canada is to be congratulated. For promoting the development of our great North West, one Canadian or "American" trained farmer is worth a dozen men from many parts of Continental Europe.

What has been already witnessed in our North West, is but the type and beginning of that which shall be within the next twenty years. We have witnessed the laying of the foundations and the rearing of the frame work of civilized society. Where a few years ago a wilderness, now the home, the school, the place of worship, municipal institutions, the newspaper, the library, the apparatus of law and order! All these things were carried with them to the North-West by sons of Ontario. The foundations seem to have been well and truly laid.

Great things may be rightly expected of the Dominion within the next twenty years. More people. More capital. More rail-

ways. More shipping. Better roads. Free rural postal delivery. Better newspapers. Better educational ideas and methods. Some beginnings of a national literature, a national art, and a national music. A subsidence of racial faction and political corruption.

What of the Churches? A broader and truer conception, let us hope, of what the religion of Jesus Christ really is; a growing breadth and tolerance that shall, before the twenty years elapse, make themselves manifest in at least a federal union of Protestant Churches. To Canada is likely to come the honor of leading in this regard, just as Canada took the lead in the union of the separate branches of Presbyterianism and of the separate branches of Methodism.

Life in Canada during the next twenty years will be worth living.

THE PRAYER MEETING AGAIN.

"Senex" writes in the Herald and Presbyter:

"There is no more discouraging fact in our churches to-day than the neglect of the weekly prayer meeting. In many of them the attendance is less than 20 per cent, when it might be 60 per cent, if all would go who could, by putting in their plans and engagements for the week."

If, as has often been suggested, the weekly prayer meeting is the gauge of the spiritual life of congregations, then we must be driven to the conclusion that many congregations are in a spiritually comatose condition. Why should not professing Christians be so interested in the congregations with which they are connected that they will resolve, and continually act upon that resolve, that they will regard the prayer meeting as a standing engagement that is not to be broken for any worldly pleasure or business demand? That would bring the attendance at the mid-week service up to high-water mark, and growing spiritual life will be the result. God will honor those who honor him in this way. "Them that honor me I will honor."

The Wine and Spirit News, the organ of the liquor traffic in the State of Ohio, has the following which indicates how the liquor fraternity everywhere are feeling that they are being sorely squeezed by public opinion: "In Missouri they have a law which compels every dealer, once a year to secure, through petition, a majority of the names of the property holders in his block, school district or township, before he can enter upon another year of business." The paper quoted says, such a requirement would raise a tremendous howl in Ohio. They have a more drastic requirement in Nova Scotia—not merely "a majority," but two-thirds of the rate-payers. Here is a valuable pointer for the temperance people of Ontario.

The Rev. Dr. Thompson, Sarnia, is at present on a visit to Queen's University, where he is lecturing to the Theological students on the important subject of Pastoral Theology. Dr. Thompson has made this subject one of special study for many years and freely imparts to the students the fruits of his wisdom and experience.

A FAITHFUL MINISTER.

We regret to announce the death of the Rev. G. Cuthbertson, who passed away suddenly at his home in Toronto on Thursday evening, Jan. 16th, in his seventy-fourth year. Mr. Cuthbertson served the Presbyterian church faithfully for nearly half a century, and was well known in Western Ontario as a man of real ability and strongly marked character. Before going to Toronto to spend the few remaining years of his life Mr. Cuthbertson was for twenty years the pastor of the congregation at Wyoming and Plymton; before that he had a similar term of service in St. Thomas, so that he was a well known figure in the London Presbytery before the division, and he was clerk of the Sarnia Presbytery from the time of its formation until he left its bounds. It may be noted that he and Dr. Proudfoot, another prominent minister of the same district, passed to their rest within a week of each other. Thus we are again reminded that in all circles of the church's life one generation is giving way to another; and we can offer no more appropriate prayer than this, that the younger men coming forward may be able to perpetuate and enlarge all that was noblest in the life of the past.

Mr. Cuthbertson's work was mainly in the neighbourhood of London and Sarnia, and within the bounds of the Synod of London and Hamilton of which Synod he was at one time appointed the moderator in recognition of his long and valuable services. Through his visits to the General Assembly, he was known to a much wider constituency, as he was always attentive to business, took a keen interest in important questions and could make a brief, suggestive contribution to a debate. In his prime, Mr. Cuthbertson was a preacher of no mean order—a man thoroughly loyal to the teaching of Scripture and the great central doctrines of the Church; at the same time possessing broad, human sympathies and a sharp insight into human nature. As a business man, he was clear in his thinking and straight in his methods. He had a strong contempt for clumsiness and crookedness. He would have rendered splendid service in a larger field than that, which in recent years, was committed to his care; but there is no need to repine at that. The strength of the Presbyterian Church, throughout the world, consists in this, that thoughtful, able men are rendering efficient, unostentatious service in quiet places. It is not good for a Church, any more than for a store, to have all its best goods in the front window; the most showy qualities are not necessarily the most effective. Mr. Cuthbertson, at any rate, was always a man who valued sterling realities more than glittering appearances.

Mr. Cuthbertson did not often make excursions into the realm of literature, outside of the fascinating fields of Presbytery minutes; but some sketches given to THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN, about two years ago, show that he might have done attractive work in that line. We wish to express our sympathy with Mrs. Cuthbertson and the family who mourn the loss of one, who through so many years, kept for them a bright and cheerful Christian home.