

# The Dominion Presbyterian

IS PUBLISHED AT

370 BANK STREET - OTTAWA

— AND AT —

Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg.

TERMS: One year (50 issues) in advance ..... \$1.50  
 Six months ..... 75  
 CLUBS of Five, at same time ..... 5.00

The date on the label shows to what time the paper is paid for. Notify the publisher at once of any mis-  
 take on label.

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 tered letter, made payable to THE DOMINION PRESBY-  
 TERIAN.

ADVERTISING RATES.—15 cents per agate line each  
 insertion, 14 lines to the inch, 11 inches to the column.  
 Letters should be addressed:

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN.

P.O. Drawer 1070, Ottawa.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor.  
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Ottawa, Wednesday, 13th June, 1901.

As we anticipated Rev. Dr. Warden was unanimously elected moderator. Going to press just as the Assembly commences its work we have space only for the retiring Moderator's sermon; but a full report of the proceedings will appear in next issue.

Dr. Warden will make a good moderator, that goes without saying. The business before the Assembly will be despatched with celerity and without friction. We would not be surprised if it turned out to be a record breaker as to shortness. At any rate no time will be wasted.

In the far West, where wheat is the staple, a good crop means more to the agriculturalist than it does in Ontario, where mixed farming obtains. It is cheering, therefore, to learn that Manitoba farmers have great faith in the crop outlook this season. One Winnipeg traveler has already sold 32 threshing outfits, aggregating \$84,000, for fall delivery.

We are indebted to Rev. Louis H. Jordan, B. D., now in Berlin, for an able paper on "The Religious Outlook in Germany," written for THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN. Mr. Jordan, from large opportunities of observation, is well qualified to deal with this subject; and when published, we are sure his contribution will be read with great interest.

Rev. E. Scott, Editor of the *Record*, manages to give his readers a large and attractive bill of fare from month to month. The June number was specially rich in intelligence from the Home and Foreign fields in which Presbyterians are most directly interested. The *Record* should be in every family; and if read by every member of every family in the church, the raising of all the money required for carrying on our rapidly growing mission operations would cease to be a troublesome problem. The Lord's treasury would be filled!

## THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

### WELCOME TO OTTAWA.

It is fitting that the first General Assembly of the Nineteenth Century should meet in the Capital of the Dominion. Ottawa will give a royal welcome to the Commissioners. Our hearts and homes are open to them; and even though the number in attendance is so large as to put our hospitality to a severe test they shall not lack entertainment.

Since the Assembly met here eleven years ago Ottawa has undergone great changes. It has developed into a city at once beautiful and progressive, and has become a popular place for great fraternal gatherings. We are not surprised that we have on this occasion the largest Assembly of the Presbyterian Church that has ever been convened in Canada. It will be a pleasant experience for our ministers and elders to see the capital of their country. Have they not a certain proprietary right in its great public buildings? The Parliament buildings and "Parliament Hill" are theirs.

It was a happy thought of the Reception Committee to have prepared for presentation to each commissioner a souvenir of the Ottawa Assembly artistically gotten up and containing a number of handsome views of the city and neighborhood.

To the members of Assembly who can steal an hour from their arduous duties the city and vicinity present many points of interest. The Geological museum, the Parliamentary Library, the Fisheries Exhibit and the National Gallery are all worthy of a visit. Our well equipped electric railway will take you in a brief space of time to the Experimental Farm or to the cool breezes of Aylmer, Britannia or Rockcliff; and no visitor will fail to see the foaming Chaudiere and its nest of great industries.

Many important matters are coming up in this Assembly that will make it memorable; and we have no doubt the commissioners will also treasure up and carry away with them many bright memories of Ottawa and its people.

A writer in an exchange advocates the method of extempore speaking as the only effective one. He quotes the opinion of Bishop Carpenter (himself an extempore preacher) that if the sermon is written it should be read, not recited from memory, but that the more excellent way is when the preacher takes into the pulpit nothing but his watch. This writer holds that speaking without manuscript is a special gift of Irishmen, which they should therefore make the most of in the great work of the Christian ministry. It would make a glorious improvement, says the Belfast Witness, were the reading of an essay banished from all our pulpits. At same time it needs to be remembered that good extempore preaching requires the best and fullest preparation of all.

Without indulging in comparisons—which would be utterly out of place in these columns—it is safe to say that Rev. Dr. MacLaren, now for many years an honoured Professor in Knox, is one of the best preachers in the Church. Last Sabbath he occupied the pulpit at Buckingham to the great delight of his hearers.

### THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Ottawa will be the Mecca of some four hundred ministers and elders for the next week. The business to be brought before the Assembly has been already tabulated, and was to-day arranged for presentation. Much depends upon the manner of its presentation, and it is worth while spending some time in planning the docket. The old method of presenting the items of business as they have been received by the Clerk, which is still followed in some Presbyteries, would bring confusion into the work of the Assembly, and so some definite plan must be selected. The fact that the immense work that is crowded into ten days moves so smoothly, is the best evidence that great care has been given to the arrangement of that work.

Some questions will be watched with great interest as they pass through the Assembly this year. The interest in the Sabbath Schools of our Church has increased greatly within the last three years. The Sabbath School is coming to its true place among the working elements of a live congregation. During the last year much interest has been awakened by the discussion of the Remit sent down from last year's Assembly, in which the proposal to appoint Synodical Sabbath School Superintendents was presented. The principle of the Remit has been very generally approved, but the details have been changed with equal unanimity. That some supervision would be beneficial is conceded, and it will be for the Sabbath School workers who are in attendance at the Assembly to suggest a workable means of securing these.

Another question that will be followed with great interest in its passage through the Assembly will be the Young People's Societies discussion. Interest in this question is thoroughly aroused. Some men have always been interested, such men as Alfred Gandier, W. S. McTavish, J. S. Henderson, and others who might be named. These have sought to awaken their brethren to the gravity of the matter at issue, and have at last succeeded. There will in all probability be an earnest discussion upon the proposal to modify the pledge, that is embodied in the report, and upon the suggestion made looking to such a reorganization of this work as shall check the steady loss that has been experienced during the last three years.

With these two questions many of those who shall make our Church what it will be in the next generation are deeply interested. There are so many other important matters that these have scarcely had their meet of attention in some former years; but they have come so decidedly to the front during the past few months, that we may safely predict a good place for them on the docket this Assembly.

Commissioners and their hosts will bear in mind the garden party at the Presbyterian Ladies' College Friday evening. It promises to be a most enjoyable function.