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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

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B. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, March 2 1904.

We are unable this week to give the balance of Rev. Thurlow Fraser's "Routine of Mission Work in Formosa," as the MS has been mislaid.

"An Ardent Admirer of the DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN," writing from Spadina Avenue, Toronto, should send us his name. We cannot make use of anonymous correspondence, or items sent in without a name.

Nowadays we hear a good deal about ballot-stuffing, and the subject is too often treated lightly; but is the man who laughs at ballot-stuffing any better than the stuffer? The man who defends the crime is probably worse than either!

A WEEK OF PRAYER FOR MISSIONS ABROAD.

In April 1903 Christian people in the United States and Canada were asked to unite in a week of special prayer for missions abroad. The response to this suggestion was so general and cordial that the Annual Conference of the Foreign Mission Boards in the United States and Canada, meeting in New York in January, decided to repeat the request for these united intercessions during the week beginning March 27th and closing April 3rd, 1904.

To prayers for the non-Christian world it is suggested that there be added intercessions for the men and women who are giving their lives to missionary work, and for a wider recognition by Christians in the home land of the duty and privilege of sharing more fully the inspiring enterprise of making our Lord known to the world. It is suggested also that individuals endeavor to pause for a moment at noon each day to offer prayer for missions and missionaries throughout the world.

GENEROUS GIFTS.

Dr. Warden desires to acknowledge, with cordial thanks, the following special contributions on behalf of several Church schemes:—His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and Mrs. M. Rimer Clark, \$625; Mr. J. T. Ross, Quebec, \$500; Mr. H. W. and Miss Woodrow, Longueuil, \$600; Mr. and Mrs. Alexander McDougall, Montreal, \$200; Mr. George Hay, Ottawa, \$250; Mr. Hugh Watson, Montreal, \$200; Hon. E. H. Bronson, Ottawa, \$600; Mr. T. C. Keefer, Ottawa, \$100; Mr. Thomas Wilson, Carp, \$100; Mr. Kenneth Urquhart, Chatham, \$470; Mr. Duncan Stewart, Hampstead, \$120; Mr. Alex. R. Goldie, Galt, \$250; Mr. Thomas Dawes, Lachine, \$500; Mr. W. H. Chase, Wolfville, \$250; Mr. J. L. Blaikie, Toronto, \$50; Mr. Robert Kilgour, Toronto, \$85; Mr. Joseph Henderson, Toronto, \$100; Mrs. Albert Boulter, Fort Coulonga, \$250; Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Henderson, Paris, \$250; "A Friend," \$150; Mr. David Yulic, Montreal, \$1,200; Mr. J. M. Gill, Brockville, \$50; Mr. George Rutherford, Hamilton, \$50; Mr. A. Lumsden, Ottawa, \$250; Mr. Hiram Robinson, Ottawa, \$250; Mr. David MacLaren, Ottawa, \$250; Mr. W. S. Leslie, Montreal, \$100; Mr. Blackburn, Ottawa, \$250; "A Friend," \$150; Robert Harvie, Montreal, \$50.

TAKE THOUGHT.

Canada has literally enjoyed seven years of "good times," and the indications all are that they will continue for some years longer. Are our people mindful of the fact that God's blessing is in the prosperity, and not merely our enterprise and intelligent industry, important though those factors may be? Are those who are accumulating wealth out of this abounding prosperity recognizing the fact that they are the stewards of God's bounty? Are they heeding the voice of Omnipotence which says: "The silver is mine and the gold is mine?" If they were, then the Christian churches of Canada would not be compelled to plead with them to bring into the Lord's treasury the money required to enable them to carry on their missionary operations and respond to the Macedonian cry of the heathen world: "Come over and help us."

It is believed that if Japan should be the victor in the present war with Russia it would result in opening Korea and possibly Manchuria to Christian missions. It is singular that such missions should be opposed by "Christian" Russia and favored by "heathen" Japan. But Japan is a distinctly enlightened and progressive nation.

Next week about 850 delegates will leave New York for the World's S. S. Convention to be held in Jerusalem on April 18th, 19th and 20th. About twenty Canadians are expected to be on board. Among others are Rev. Wm. Frizzell, of Toronto; Rev. R. J. M. Glassford, of Guelph; Rev. H. D. Cameron, of Allandale; and Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Burpee and Miss Burpee, of Ottawa. The excursionists may confidently look forward to a most enjoyable trip. Going the north shore of the Mediterranean will be taken; and returning the south, reaching New York by May 18th.

WHY WE SYMPATHIZE WITH JAPAN.

While the average sympathies of the English speaking world are on the side of Japan, there are not wanting those who imagine very dangerous possibilities at some time in the future as growing out of "the success of the heathen," as one phrases it. They see in Japan's success a Japanese leadership and mastery in China, a cry of "Asia for the Asiatics," and in some future world struggle millions of Chinese soldiers, trained and disciplined, being hurled against modern European civilization. We do not share these forebodings; but even if we did, the current attitude of the English-speaking world would be the same. If it is not a right principle to do evil that good may come, neither is it a right principle that we should refrain from doing, at the present, what our best judgment counsels, through fear that some day evil may come. "Do right though the heavens fall!" that is our part; probably the heavens will not fall; that branch of the business which allots results does not fall within our disposal.

The tendency of free, English-speaking people to sympathize with Japan in the present crisis rather than with Russia, seems to us to be based on reasonable foundations. The people of Japan have shown physical and mental ability and studious caracity quite remarkable. Christianity has not taken entire possession of the people, it is true, but it has done so to a gratifying extent. In Japan there is now at least "the open door" to the Gospel, which door is likely to be still more widely opened to English-speaking missionaries, thanks to the mutual sympathies engendered by the Anglo-Japanese alliance now subsisting.

The ruling policy in Russia for generations has been repressive and despotic alike in Church and State. There is no toleration in the State, and as little toleration in the National Church. If Canadians had to-day to choose between being governed according to the methods of so-called pagan Japan, or those of so-called Christian Russia, very few of us would cast our preference ballot in favor of being Russified. Yet this Russia, so despotic, so crude, so unenlightened and superstitious, so hostile to individual liberty and every right of conscience, has been long possessed of a very mania for absorbing little by little every adjoining territory. When Japan a few years ago waged successful war with China Japan would have retained one of China's provinces, Manchuria; but Russia, backed up by Germany and France, compelled Japan to relinquish her prize of war. But the distinct understanding was that Russia was also to retire from Manchuria, and not dismember China of one of her most important provinces. But Russia neither carried out this pledge, nor showed the slightest intention of ever carrying it out. Russian possession of Manchuria meant permanent insecurity to Japan, and it also meant in due course Russian possession of Korea. Russian talk about Japan being