

# 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 mistake on label.

1 per is continued until an order is sent for discontinuance, and with it, payment of arrearsages.  
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Sample copies sent upon application.

Send all remittances by check, money order or registered letter, made payable to THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN.

ADVERTISING RATES.—15 cents per square line each insertion, 14 lines to the inch, 11 1/2 inches to the column. Letters should be addressed:

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

P.O. Drawer 1070, Ottawa

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, Jan. 7 1903.

We congratulate the Toronto Presbytery and the Westminster Company on the appointment of Rev. James A. MacDonald to the managing editorship of the Globe. The change will be found distinctly to the advantage of the Toronto Presbytery.

Lord Roseberry, in the English House of Lords, speaking on the Education Bill said: "But what I confess, is sadder still is the religious aspect of this question. That nineteen centuries after the birth of Christ, the reformed churches of this country cannot agree among themselves upon a form of religious education which might be taught to children under fourteen years of age, is, I think, a grave subject of reflection and meditation to the friends of all these Churches."

Six months ago the Toronto Presbytery initiated a scheme of City Mission work under Deaconesses. The Presbytery did not call these good ladies Deaconesses, of course, but they did the work of the deaconess, and worked just as well under the better understood name of "Bible-women." Three consecrated women were put to work in three sections of the City, each being placed under the care of one of the sessions of the district, and instructed to make regular returns to that session and to the Presbytery. The scheme was on trial for six months, but so well has it worked that it is probable that it will, with some necessary modifications, be adopted finally and incorporated with the other schemes under the control of the Presbytery. In the report submitted it is stated that of something over 1100 families visited only 170 did not attend some church. This caused some surprise to those who had not done work among the non-church goers. Invariably the people who do not attend church will tell the visitor, that is the official visitor, that they attend the other church, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Church of England, as the case may be, to which the visitor does not belong. The careful visitor soon learns to put no value upon this declaration. It is probable that this or some similar plan may soon be put in operation in other cities. The Church has been altogether too slow in utilizing the services and talents of devout women.

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### FRENCH EVANGELIZATION AND POINTE AUX-TREMBLES.

The condition of the funds of the French Board are such as to demand attention. For the last few years, the revenue has fallen off considerably. For the ordinary French Fund, the receipts from the church were, last year \$17,050, compared with \$23,400 in 1895. The receipts for the Pointe-aux-Trembles schools, last year, deducting fees, were \$7,095, as compared with \$9,500 in 1895. To make good the shortage last year, the Reserve Fund was drawn upon to the extent of \$6,000. At present, the French Evangelization ordinary fund is \$13,400 in debt, and the Pointe-aux-Trembles Fund \$5,200, in debt. On the basis of last year's receipts, there will be a shortage in both funds of upwards of \$11,000, and no available Reserve fund on which to draw to make good the shortage.

The claims of these funds seem to have been neglected in many quarters of recent years, and unless there is a very large increase in revenue it will become necessary to contract the work of the Board. This will be a matter of deep regret, more especially in connection with Pointe-aux-Trembles, where such admirable work is being done. We learn that the communion was dispensed there on Sabbath last, when fourteen of the pupils professed their faith in Christ and were received into fellowship with the church. It is hoped in connection with the distribution of missionary moneys, which soon took place in many congregations, that the claims of this work will be duly considered, and grants made in accordance with the requirements.

Will not many Sabbath Schools who, heretofore, have done little for this work, each become responsible for the support of a pupil at Pointe-aux-Trembles. The cost of this is \$50 per annum. When a Sabbath School agrees to contribute \$50., a particular pupil is assigned to it, concerning whom information is sent to the Sabbath School from time to time.

### STATE OF THE FUNDS.

The Rev. Dr. Warden sends us the following comparative statement of receipts for the schemes of the Church, to 31st December.

	1900.	1901.	1902.
Home Missions	\$22,586.86	\$26,951.21	\$40,829.54
Augmentation	3,211.55	3,292.63	4,437.38
Foreign Missions	32,106.71	33,746.49	36,933.82
French Evangelization	5,878.73	5,543.48	8,324.40
Pointe-Aux-Trembles	3,166.47	1,744.19	3,083.05
Widow & Orphan fund	2,998.19	1,699.65	2,673.01
Aged & Infirm Min.	1,675.24	1,164.52	2,033.63
Assembly Fund	2,269.98	2,132.90	2,536.31
Knox College	1,293.81	1,310.51	1,194.70
Queen's College	380.95	354.97	429.79
Pres. College, Montreal	277.27	28.92	441.27
Manitoba College	1,163.29	908.23	995.55

The year ends on 28th February 1903. All contributions should reach the Treasurer's office on or before the evening of that date.

The Rev. Dr. Gordon, the principal elect of Queen's University, is expected in Kingston early in the New Year. He comes in deference to the earnest request of the local Trustees who feel that the general interests of the University require his presence. It is not likely that he will do much in the way of teaching during the present term. Dr. McComb will probably spend the remainder of the college session in Halifax, lecturing to the students there in the place of Dr. Gordon.

### THE MARTYR ISLE.

This work is more than an autobiography. It is a description of the Island of Erromanga, and of the group of which it forms an important member; it is an account of the manners, customs, pursuits and superstitions of the people, a statement of the resources and productions of the island, and a history of mission work thereon. And what a history! The reader must be of a sluggish temperament, indeed, if his pulse is not quickened as he peruses the tragic story of the martyrdom of John Williams, James Harris, the Gordon brothers and Mrs. Ellen C. Gordon. Nor will his interest cease even then. Other incidents and scenes will hold his attention without flagging till the very end. The plots which were formed to kill the Robertsons and to put an end to Christianity on the island, and the providential way in which these diabolical plots were frustrated, make an exceedingly entertaining narrative; while the splendid triumphs of the Gospel among a people who were once so steeped in degradation awaken a feeling of gratitude that a man of Mr. Robertson's sympathetic nature, hopeful spirit, and consecrated heart should be permitted to labor so long on the martyr isle.

Though the subject with which the author deals is naturally a grave one, yet the book is by no means destitute of humor, and the best of it is, that the humor often scintillates where it is least expected. Sometimes in the midst of a very exciting scene the reader is forced to smile by some amusing remark interjected in the story. The manner in which Mrs. Robertson and her lady visitor flew into each others arms, again and again, one night during a series of earthquake shocks, the way in which Mr. Robertson found out that his milkman was becoming civilized, his attempts at match making, and his account of the marriage which did not come off are fine bits which relieve the tension of the story.

Some of the character sketches are very good. Evidently Mr. Robertson appreciated his two teachers and preachers, Yarnot and Nosoreki, in much the same way as the late Dr. G. L. MacKay esteemed A Hoa and Tan He. It is a great tribute to the power of the Gospel in Erromanga, as well as in Formosa, that under its ennobling and purifying influence, such men as those mentioned could be taken out of the darkness or heathenism, and in a short time, made such burning and shining lights in the Church. It is another testimony to the fact that the Gospel is still the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, and that no man need be ashamed of it.

The mechanical work of the book is all that could be desired. The illustrations are excellent. The Editor, Rev. John Fraser of Sydney writes an extremely modest preface, but the notes which he has appended to the volume are very valuable. An appendix by Dr. Alexander Morrison, Government Botanist of Perth, Australia, on the physical features and flora of the New Hebrides, will be especially helpful to those who are inter-

\*Erromanga, the Martyr Isle, by the Rev. H. A. Robertson. Edited by John Fraser, B.A., LL.D. Toronto: The Upper Canada Book Co.