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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

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Ottawa, Wednesday, Jan. 4 1905.

We notice that our valued contemporary, The Presbyterian Witness, has removed its business department from Halifax to Pictou, where in future it will be printed and published. Rev. Dr. Murray, for so many years the able editor, continues in charge, with headquarters in Halifax. We do not know why this change has been made by the proprietors; but The Witness has our hearty best wishes for an increasingly prosperous future.

It is gratifying to learn that Dr. Marion Oliver, Miss Weir and Rev. J. S. McKay have arrived safely at their destination in Central India, according to word received at the Presbyterian offices. With the arrival of the hot weather the plague disappeared. As a precaution, in future no classes will be held in the plague season. The Government inspector recently expressed himself as well satisfied with the Central India Presbyterian schools. All was quiet in the district. The F. M. Board hopes to send two more men to Formosa next year.

If there is a clear head or warm heart in Scottish Presbytery they are found in Dr. MacGregor, of Edinburgh, well known to many of our readers. Referring to the Church case he spoke in these terms:—"One cheering circumstance, which must be grateful to all Scottish hearts, was the ever-strengthening hope that a way would be found with the least possible delay for settling the troubles of the sister Churches, and of settling them by a method that would do ample justice to both. It was impossible to keep from indulging the hope that under the higher hand the ultimate result might be ONE GREAT NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Reconstruction, or if that was too strong a word, confederation, would be effected not through destructive violence—which would never do it—but by peaceful methods, mutual forbearance, sympathy and respect." This is a wise and noble sentiment, and it has been expressed by Dr. Cameron Lees and other leaders of the Church of Scotland.

CHURCH UNION.

It is difficult to say whether the movement for organic union has gained by the important meetings recently held, and if so, how much. It has been wisely decided to "hasten slowly," as in such a case the proverb "the greater hurry the less speed" would undoubtedly come true. Such a movement if it is genuine in its nature and beneficial in its effects must grow slowly. Last year there seemed to be a sudden demand for such union, but that itself was the result of long thought and faithful work on the part of a few pioneers. In gaining a clearer public recognition of the subject the few have in some measure achieved their purpose and attained to their reward. But any further movement in a forward direction must be preceded by the same prayerful thought and calm consideration. The subject now presented is large. The interests varied, the questions complex; and it will require the skill and tact of the wisest leaders to solve the problems. If the movement is to have any real deep success it must not be merely the movement of a few ministers and prominent laymen but a movement of the whole people, young and old; and in its own way it must create an enthusiasm which so far has not begun to manifest itself. We are not inclined to adopt a pessimistic tone or to think that this is impossible: THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN is in favor of union. But we simply wish to look at the matter in a clear light and in a sober spirit. And surely it is a commonplace to say that in proportion to the magnitude of the movement must be the wisdom and skill required to bring it to a successful issue. That such a movement can be deliberately faced at all is a good sign, a sign of desire of union under the one Master; and of a purpose that the resources of the church shall not be wasted by vain rivalry and foolish competition.

It is then a subject upon which the people may well be asked to think a little when they can disengage their thoughts from business claims and political conflicts. In this connection we must mention the loss of men like the late Principals Grant, Caven, McVicar and King, as well as the great missionary worker, Dr. Robertson. These and others who have been taken from us would all have had a distinct contribution to make to such a discussion. Especially were Drs. Grant and Caven interested in the question of church union; though they were very different in temperament, in their mode of attacking and pursuing a great subject, they were one in this that they desired to see the different branches of the Christian church magnify the essential things and allow the small dividing influences to fall into the background. These noble men are gone and we must face our own problems and do our own work; and as we have said in such a case as this, it is not a question for a few leaders but for the whole church. Opportunities will arise for the discussion of various aspects of

the great subject; at present, it is sufficient if the ordinary member of the church can be stirred to inquire into the meaning of this movement, and to weigh carefully what is said on all sides.

The remarkable religious movement in Wales continues. In many respects it has a marked resemblance to the earlier stages of the Irish Revival of 1859. Among a Celtic population emotion is less restrained than elsewhere, but the presence of excitement does not detract from the reality of the good accomplished.

In his recent speech to the Canadian Club, Toronto, Prof. Osler spoke very strongly on the vice of political lying and slandering of Canadian public men, and advised the application of "an ordinary, everyday Christian spirit" as the remedy. It is a pity this "Christian spirit" does not obtain to a larger degree both in municipal and political contests. In Ottawa the mayoralty contest last week was marked by disgraceful personalities. The Capital should show a better example.

The news of the capitulation of Port Arthur has been received with joy all over the Dominion. The Russian general signed the compact at 9.45 on Monday night. On Tuesday morning the Japanese took possession of a number of the forts. The town itself is wrecked, the ships blown up, and the entrance to the harbor completely blocked. Let us hope that this terrible war may now be brought to a speedy close.

The Friendly Visitor, The Child's Own Magazine, The British Workman, Our Little Dots, The Children's Friend, The Child's Companion, The Band of Hope Review.

We are reminded that Canadian Editions of these well-known English periodicals are issued by the Upper Canada Tract Society and they are very useful for schools and households.

The New York Bankers, Messrs. Henry Clews & Co., in their review of the financial situation, at the end of the year, in view of the war in the East, say: The war between Russia and Japan has thus far exercised but a slight disturbing influence. It should not, however, be lost to sight, as with the approach of spring both contestants are likely to again knock at the door for fresh loans wherewith to carry on another, and it is to be hoped the final, campaign. Russia would, of course, go to Paris and Berlin, chiefly the former. But the best opinion is that it is the last time that Paris will open her purse strings to aid Russia in this war. Japan would probably depend chiefly upon London for outside help; but her own resources are by no means so near exhaustion as supposed, and the extraordinary spirit of sacrifice and intrepidity, backed by successes already gained, gives Japan an enormous advantage over Russia, weakened, as she is, by corruption and internal dissensions, to say nothing of the difficulties and additional cost of carrying on the war at such an immense distance from home."