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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1906.

Christian Endeavor in France is going steadily forward, till it has attained 122 societies with 2,054 members; but it is uphill work, as is all evangelical work in France.

Considerable complaint is being raised over the exorbitant expenses in connection with evangelic meetings in the United States. "If," says the Western Christian Advocate, "any suggestion of a mercenary spirit is even indirectly made, there will be a severe revulsion against all evangelism."

A Toronto grand jury, in its presentment to the court last week, expressed the opinion that the entrusting of young men, subject as they are to the enhanced cost of living in the city, with great responsibilities, and the handling of large sums of money, on salaries which are insufficient, is a very frequent cause of breaches of trust. There is no doubt some force in that; but it would be very demoralizing to encourage the idea that a man is excused for stealing because his employer is a niggard.

The New York Outlook prints a letter from a Russian mother, who writes with intelligence and force in regard to the conditions in her country. The letter presents a dark view of the outlook in Russia, and unless the writer is unduly pessimistic, the struggle between autocracy and liberty seems destined to be long and bitter indeed. The dispatches from Russia describing the elections as a farce, with terrorism on the part of the officials in preventing a free expression of public opinion come as a speedy confirmation of the view taken in this letter.

Writing about the revival meetings in Philadelphia, The Westminster of that city says:

There is no excitement about these meetings. That seems a wonder when one considers the vast audiences. But Dr. Torrey is not an exciter. He is rather an inciter. Men are led, not scared. His story of the Saturday night caller who was a superintendent of a Sunday-school, but who was all wrong, was a powerful illustration of the Doctor's own methods. The man stuck at the possible to him in a business way of getting right with God. "It will cost you more not to," was Dr. Torrey's answer. "It will make me lose my place to do it," was the man's plea. "You will lose more not to do it," was the answer. That is the example: no excitement: a steady holding of a soul to just one proposition.

RAISING CHURCH MONEY.

The best way of raising necessary money for congregational purposes of every kind is undoubtedly an efficient weekly envelope system. This would do away with many of the dubious methods so often employed by church members. Occasionally the overworked members of "committees" have time to read their Bibles and come to the place where Christ said to the people in the temple: "Take these things hence! Make not my Father's house a house of merchandise." But they are probably counting up the necessary cakes and quarts of salad even while their eyes are on the printed pages! Many a woman will frankly say she must go to prayer meeting so she can meet the members of her committee, or will solicit cakes after church services simply because the routine and detail must be attended to if the social machinery is to move smoothly.

The inevitable question everywhere today is, "Does it pay?"—that is, everywhere but in churches. If the overworked men and women who must manage, work, plan and entertain to carry on the affairs of the church, would sit quietly down to consider this important question, there would be fewer rummage sales and Tom Thumb weddings. In any business undertaking they would count the cost first of all, but the Father's business may be managed any way. That is the impression worldly people can not help receiving when they see every kind of money-making scheme instead of free-will offerings and honest tithes for the Lord's treasury.

In time all these things are bound to be done away with, but why not now? Why were they ever permitted to sap the energy and vitality of the church that should have been spent in winning souls for the Master? We read in surprise and dismay of the old days when ministers did many things which we condemn in hardened sinners, and wonder what the church was doing to permit such desecration; but we look on unmoved at the worldliness fostered by the church people nowadays. Can not these things be taken hence—that the churches may be free from gossip, noise, laughter and all things that tend from godliness? All honor to the men and women who work and pray and strive against the things that do not make for righteousness! May they mightily increase and bring about the day when this burden of reproach shall be forever rolled off the churches of the land!

ENGLAND SOBERING UP.

It would appear from all reports that England is sobering up. According to government reports, the consumption of distilled liquors has fallen off twenty-one per cent., of wines thirty-three per cent., and of beer thirteen per cent. per capita. The chancellor of the exchequer ascribes it to "a wave of sobriety." Mr. Whittaker, a member of parliament who has given much study to questions of temperance and moral legislation, says that the working-men of England are in better condition than formerly, and that except for increased self-control there would be a natural increase in the use of drink. Many temperance meetings have been held of recent years, certain temperance lessons have been introduced in many of the schools, and physicians prescribe intoxicants with less freedom than formerly. All these influences combined are beginning to tell upon the trade, and even such journals as the Times speak encouragingly of the outlook from the standpoint of ultimate total abstinence.

Negroes in the Northern States are barred out of most kinds of employment, and those in which they have found work are gradually being closed to them. It is said that not a single hotel in New York City now employs colored waiters. In our own Hamilton, last week, the "Fisk Jubilee Singers" were refused entertainment at every hotel in the city. Members of the troupe have been entertained by Royalty in Britain.

AN IMPORTANT OVERTURE.

Editor Dominion Presbyterian,—I enclose for publication a copy of an overture moved in the Presbytery of Paris by myself, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Hutt, of Ingersoll. The matter was discussed with much earnestness and the overture at our request was transmitted simpliciter, though the principle of it would certainly have been adopted had that course been asked. It is evident that the pastors and elders of the church are studying the question in view of some of the considerations urged in the preamble. The possibility of having two separate missionary organizations amongst the women of a congregation and also of having the children of a congregation organized into separate mission bands is being definitely faced. The feeling is general that in the end the whole work would be greatly strengthened by an amalgamation and that such a course would conserve in a marked degree the harmonious movement of congregations.

R. G. MacBETH.

Paris, Ont., 21st March, 1906.

Whereas the General Assembly in 1901 considered a proposal to widen the scope of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society with a view to including the study and work of Home Missions by the women of the Church in one great missionary organization,

And whereas the Assembly at that time, after some discussion, laid the matter on the table, the time not appearing to be ripe for the movement,

And whereas the commendable eagerness of the women of the church to take part in the great work of our Home Field, which has increased immensely since the date above mentioned, has led to the organization of a Woman's Home Missionary Society, with auxiliaries throughout the congregations,

And whereas the Assembly at Vancouver in 1903 approved of the organization of a Woman's Home Missionary Society as an auxiliary to the Home Mission Committee, as it had already approved the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society as an auxiliary to the Foreign Mission Committee,

And whereas each of these general organizations of this kind is to be avoided in the interests of the home life of the people, seeing that their maintenance lays unduly heavy burdens on the faithful women of the church, especially in the smaller congregations,

And whereas it is important to the life and harmony of congregations that the number of organizations should be limited as far as is consistent with efficient work, and that separate organizations should not represent even apparently rival interests,

And whereas in many parts of the church the whole work of Home and Foreign Missions is effectively carried on by the women in one organization,

And whereas the publication of one large missionary magazine, by the women of the church, including all departments of their work, would be of immensely more educational and inspirational value than two separate publications representing different interests and going into separate homes,

Now, therefore, the Presbytery of Paris humbly overtures the venerable the general assembly to consider the whole matter, and through special committee or otherwise invite a conference with the Assembly's Committees on Home and Foreign Missions and the Boards of the W. F. M. S. and the W. H. M. S. with a view to bringing about an amalgamation of these societies into one great missionary organization for the women of the church.

Winnipeg Presbyterians are urging further amendments to the Liquor Act. They ask that when an appeal is made from the License Commissioners to the judge the decision of the judge be made ipso facto effective in cancelling the licenses.