

The Dominion Presbyterian

IS PUBLISHED AT
323 FRANK ST., - OTTAWA
AND AT
MONTREAL AND WINNIPEG

Terms: One year (56 issues) in
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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,
P. O. Drawer 563, Ottawa.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,
Manager and Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, SEPT., 23, 1908

A couple of weeks ago we received from
the author, Rev. Allen Leslie Howard,
Kemptville, a neatly printed booklet of
130 pages, containing "Seven Thousand
Facts About Temperance." The varied
information contained in this little
volume has evidently been carefully
compiled, and will prove of inestimable
value to the speaker and writer on tem-
perance topics, as well as containing
for the ordinary reader, a treasury
of information on the Temperance ques-
tion not obtainable in any other quarter.
The price is only 25 cents.

There is a class of persons who con-
stantly boast, as if it were a virtue, "I
always speak my mind." Some one, de-
nying the advisability of so much un-
necessary frankness, says the person who
would really speak out everything in his
mind would be apt to be knocked down
half-a-dozen times before he reached his
down town office. There is such a thing
as speaking the truth in love, as fitting
opportunity offers, but brutality of utter-
ance never helped the heart of any one.
Akin to those who "always speak their
minds" are those who flatter themselves
that friendship authorizes them to say
disagreeable things to their intimates.

The careful householder, as well as
the prudent church manager and school
trustee, will thank us for directing their
attention to the Kelsey Air System, for
the economical and efficient heating of
homes, schools and churches. The
Kelsey heater is not on trial. It has
been in successful operation for several
years, and has proved itself first-class
in every particular. Enquiries should
be addressed to the James Smart Manu-
facturing Company, Brockville, which
has already turned out some 30,000 of
these unrivalled furnaces. Confidence
in the "Kelsey" will not be lessened
when we tell readers of the Dominion
Presbyterian that the president of the
company is Mr. J. M. Gill, the well-
known elder of the First Presbyterian
Church, Brockville.

CRITICISM AND FAITH.*

These two volumes show the efforts
that are now made to bring before the
rank and file of the members of the
Church the results of the scholarly in-
vestigation to which the Scriptures have
been subjected during the past century.
Dr. Monro Gibson is a preacher and pas-
tor who has always valued high class
expository work in the pulpit; Dr. A.
Duff is a professor, a specialist in old
Testament criticism who has kept him-
self in sympathy with the pulpit and its
close touch with the people; hence the
two volumes, while quite different in
their handling of the common theme
have one purpose and are moved by a
similar spirit. The professor belongs to
the "advanced" wing and he candidly
tells us that we must always be advanc-
ing; the preacher, on the other hand,
feels that we must not go too fast and
that care must be taken to prove to the
people that the result of reverent criti-
cism is such that those who love the
Bible do not suffer loss, but rather make
real gains for head and heart. Dr. Gib-
son's book is published under the aus-
pices of the Free Church Council, and
is apologetic in the best sense of the
word, as it comes from a man who has
a faith that is strong enough to look
facts in the face. This is well expressed
in the closing words, "And when I hear
of these old difficulties marshalled for
the thousandth time, with the expecta-
tion of destroying our faith in Christ, I
think of my little grandchild of eighteen
months, who, having been taught by her
father to blow out first a match and then
a candle, made her next attempt on the
orb of day, on an afternoon with just
enough fog to make it possible for her
to look straight at its great red ball.
The dear child tried it again and again
and again, and the sun is shining yet."

Very good! but we have also to admit,
as the author does elsewhere, that the
people who would put their little
match in the place of the sun are just
as foolish in their conduct and some-
times do as much harm as those who try
in vain to blow out the sun. Dr. Gib-
son's style is always clear and strong;
it is that of a man who appreciates liter-
ary form, but who is thinking of the
real substance and spirit of his message.
We are sorry that we cannot say the
same for Principal Forsyth, who con-
tributes an Introduction; he is so much
of a mere stylist that his style may
sometimes, without injustice, be called
"decadent." For example, what can the
average man make of this statement?
"The mere hierophants only gather
groups, and strike flashes; they vary be-
tween pathos and bathos; they are not
equal to the needs of a great Church and
the public it faces." Writing of that
kind makes one think that there is a
tremendous attempt at cleverness with
most disastrous results. In the body of
the book, as we have said, it is different.
Dr. Gibson is content to put great ques-

tions plainly without straining after
effect. Most interesting, especially to
young preachers, is the place (page 7)
where the author tells how he was driven
or rather led into a larger view of in-
spiration, and the influence of Brown-
ing, Bruce and others that favored the
movement in that direction is mention-
ed. Speaking of "Saul" he says: "For
me, the reading of that poem put an end
to the old mechanical, unnatural view
of inspiration which reduces the sacred
writers to mere amanuenses." A very
good example of the power of poetry to
soften dogma and bring back the Bible
to its real position as living literature.
It is not Dr. Gibson's purpose to enter
into details of criticism, but he makes
it quite clear that he accepts without
reservation the principle of development
or the progressiveness of revelation which
is so abundantly illustrated by all care-
ful criticism; or in his own words, the
Old Testament contains the story of Di-
vine discipline through a long history
(p. 68). It would be well if the great
body of the people would take a deeper
interest in such questions, and turn away
from the extreme orthodoxy of the letter
to a position that is both more reverent
and more intelligent, the position rep-
resented here that faith in revelation is
richer when freed from the old slavish
literalism.

When we turn to Dr. Duff's book, un-
der the modest title of "Hints," we have
information, suggestions and conjectures
that will be startling to many readers;
it will shake them up and will make
them think, but it will, we hope, make
them feel that there is no need to be
alarmed. Dr. Duff has been working long
in the region of Old Testament criticism,
but he is by no means of the dry as dust
kind; he keeps his youthful enthusiasm
and is a man of fine spiritual feeling.
This book consists of articles that ap-
peared in the Christian Commonwealth
and on the whole the sympathy of the
author is with the New Theology, but
he feels that we still have much to learn
from the theology of the oldest times.
He rejoices in the fact that in the distant
days before Israel came into existence
God was speaking to reverent souls in
Babylonia. If we had space for such
criticism we might point out several
statements that demand pretty full dis-
cussion; we need then to remember that
in a small volume of "Hints" many
things are presented as the author's
opinion, which can by no means be re-
garded as settled. But we must say that
the spirit of this book is living and
healthful, and that one of its chief re-
commendations is that it will provide
thought and quicken in the reader the
desire to examine more fully some of
these important matters. From these
two volumes any thoughtful reader will
receive real help and will learn that the
Bible is a book of ever increasing in-
terest and power. Dr. Duff's small vol-
ume is provokingly suggestive; it raises
a great variety of important questions
and must lead those who read it to look
more fully into the interesting question
of Israel's origin and history, and the
way in which his prophets and wise men
prepared for Christianity and left us such
a noble heritage of truth.

*The Inspiration and authority of
Holy Scripture, by J. Monro Gibson,
M.A., LL.D. (London: National Council
of Evangelical Free Churches) Hints
on Old Testament Theology, by Arch-
bald Duff, M.A., LL.D. (London: A.
and C. Black).