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THE NEW MODERATOR

The moderator-elect of the present Canadian General Assembly, Rev. Dr. Milligan, of Old St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, will maintain the dignity of the chair, while preventing business from flagging, and while banishing dullness from the proceedings. Dr. Milligan has been well nigh 30 years pastor of his present charge. That his vigorous researches are productive, might be judged from the large number of students who constantly flock to hear him. Dr. Milligan is a bonnie fighter, but he fights so fairly and blithely that his opponents in opinion are ever his best friends personally. Dr. Milligan is quite human—a man to love as well as a man to respect.

THERE ARE EVILS WORSE THAN DEATH.

It is saddening to think of Japanese and Russians hurled into eternity in the present war. We are no friends to human carnage. War brings many evils. But sometimes the more murderous wars are, by so much do they shock the best feelings of mankind and lead on to the ultimate and certain substitution of arbitration in the place of brute force. This war seems to have been unusually destructive of human life for the time it has been in progress. We see clearly enough its abhorrent features; but good will yet come out of this evil. Japan has become emphatically a Power to be reckoned with, but withal a Power in close alliance with the great English-speaking, liberty loving, pro Christian Britain. Russia will receive so rude an awakening that the usages of constitutional freedom will yet spring up like summer flowers from her blood-stained and tyranny-harrowed soil.

As to physical death and suffering, perhaps we all need to be steadied by recognizing that physical death is by no means the greatest of evils.

THE DRINK PROBLEM.

Any one can see when a man invests a few hundred dollars in a new stove, or an addition to his house, or a cabinet organ, or in some other such things that might be mentioned, he has made an investment more or less permanent in its nature. But if a man spends his money on intoxicating liquor, he has nothing left to show for it, except poorer health and lessened earning powers. Think now of \$837,000,000 thus worse than thrown away in 1903 in Great Britain, and the financial millenium that would follow the saving of such a yearly amount or the most of it!

Canada is at present the most temperate civilized country on the globe. Its position in this respect should not be allowed to retrograde. Whatever view is held concerning the wisdom of attempting the total prohibition of the liquor traffic, all people of common sense must agree with the Rev. Mr. Chown, the Methodist Secretary of the department of moral and social reform, in his practical and practicable battle-cry, "Banish the Bar."

The Japs are wiser in their generation than are sometimes the children of supposedly greater light. They do not say, "We will do nothing—we will attempt to take no outpost—we will cry for Port Arthur, and we must have it now." Instead, they take one outpost after another, each success being but a stepping stone to the main object.

The moral is plain. Adopt Mr. Chown's battle cry, "Banish the Bar," as the duty and method most immediately at hand. That practicable end achieved, we are by so much nearer the successful storming of the Port Arthur of the traffic in strong drink.

The name of Mr. A. P. Cockburn is put forward by The Gravenhurst *Banner* as a fit representative for the new riding of Muskoka in the House of Commons. Mr. Cockburn has had a long Parliamentary experience. He has besides rendered services of so much value to the district of Muskoka that his candidature would no doubt be popular with the electors. Since 1865 Mr. Cockburn has been identified with the interests of Muskoka. He organized the Navigation Company in 1866 with one small steamer, and largely by his exertions the "Highlands of Ontario" have become the summer home of many thousands of people. More than any other individual, perhaps, Mr. Cockburn has contributed to the prosperity of Muskoka. He represented the district in the Legislature of 1867. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1871, 1874 and 1878. The *Banner* suggests that both parties now unite to offer him a nomination at the next election. Aside from being a loyal churchman, and an elder in the Gravenhurst congregation, Mr. Cockburn is in every way well qualified to represent the new constituency in the Commons. It would be a graceful thing to do if both parties united in unanimously electing him as their representative. No public man in Canada is better entitled to such a tribute of esteem and confidence.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOTES.

In his closing remarks before leaving the Moderator's chair, Dr. Fletcher urged the General Assembly to accept the invitation Kingston Presbyterians intended to make to meet in that city next year, in which event commissioners will be able to see what excellent work is being done by one of the foremost church institutions—Queen's University.

Referring to the presence in St. John's of commissioners to the General Assembly of the Globe of that city says: "They have been heartily welcomed to this hospitable city—formally by the chief magistrates in St. Andrew's Church on Thursday, and informally through the week by the people, and everybody will wish that busy as they are with vitally important questions they will be able to enjoy their visit to this—to many of them—distant corner of the Dominion."

When Home Missions were before the Assembly an example of good practical missionary work in Queen Charlotte Island was related by Rev. Dr. Herdman. A student sent to this charge found he needed a boat. He built one and made an engine for it himself. Excellent results have followed from this man's widely extended work there.

The resignation of Rev. Professor Campbell was a painful surprise to the Assembly. At the suggestion of Mr. David Morrice, Chairman of the College Board, a committee, consisting of Dr. Fletcher, Hamilton; Dr. Murray, Halifax; Dr. Armstrong, Ottawa; Dr. Lyle, Hamilton; Mr. W. L. Clay, Victoria, and Mr. D. Morrice, Montreal, was immediately appointed to confer with Dr. Campbell and urge the reconsideration of his resignation. It is understood that Dr. Campbell was seen before leaving St. John for Montreal, and that he declined to recede from the position taken. In response to a query by the Toronto News, his answer was: "My resignation is, and, under the circumstances, must be final."

The General Assembly never tires of listening to "more Yukon experiences" from Rev. Dr. Pringle. He makes most interesting statements about the Yukon district. "The country west of Lake Superior—that is Canada," he says. Laughingly, referring to a statement that "Any man who goes west of Winnipeg will lie about the climate, he said a Toronto teacher once asked him if the polar bears in the Yukon were ferocious, but he never saw one till he got to Toronto. Except for two months, the climate of the Yukon is to me the best in Canada," he declared. "You cannot find an arctic plant in the Yukon valley. What is wanted is a railway from Grand Trunk Pacific through the great Yukon Valley."

An interesting event in the history of the Capital will take place next Saturday, when the corner stone of the new Glebe church will be laid by Mr. Levi Crannell. Among those who will give addresses will be Rev. Dr. Herridge, Rev. W. M. Loucks, Rev. F. G. Lett, Rev. A. A. Cameron and others.