

# The Dominion Presbyterian

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, Feb. 17 1904.

The portion of India selected as a field for Dr. Wilkie to exercise his gifts and experience is the Province of Malwah, containing 3,000,000 of people who are without missionaries and practically uncared for. It is intended he shall locate at Gwannah a city in the centre of the district. It is said to be 200 miles by road and 400 miles by rail from the present mission stations so there will be no danger of interests clashing.

The leading article in the January Studio is by A.S. Baldry on The Paintings and Etchings of Sir Charles Holroyd. then follow: Recent Works by Mr. W. Reynolds Stephens; Recent German Lithographs in colour; The French Pastelists of the Eighteenth Century; Modern Austrian Wiener Furniture; the Drawings of Stephen B. de la Bere; Jules Cheret's Drawings in sanguine; and some very excellent Studio talk. The Studio XX Leicester Square, London, England.

## WRITE DR FOTHERINGHAM.

EDITOR DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN: It has been suggested to me that it might be a good thing to organize an "Ecclesiastical Society" in connection with our church so as to bring together all who are interested in ecclesiastical antiquities, architecture, liturgies, patristics, and questions of general church history, doctrine and biography. Such a society would promote a stronger sense of the historic continuity of the church and would aim at the conservation of its distinctive features as one of the branches of the "Universal Kirk." Might I presume to take the initiative in such a movement by asking any of your readers who would like to see such a society formed to write to me. If a sufficient number respond a meeting might be arranged for during the next General Assembly. Yours sincerely,

F F FOTHERINGHAM

St. John's N. B., Feb. 13th, 1904.

## THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

### "THE EMPIRE THAT ABIDES"

Mr Austin Chamberlain, the present British Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a public address a few days ago, pointed out that great national economy would be needed for a few years in Great Britain. The South African war, now that the piper has to be paid, is not exactly so popular as it was when the whole nation seemed drunk with war feeling and the fumes of jingoism. One of the worst things about a debauch of war sentiment is that it defers and deters interest in moral and social domestic problems. This thought seems to have impressed that genuine English poet, William Watson, whose recent ringing poem our readers will be glad to read:

#### The True Imperialism.

Here, while the tide of conquest rolls  
Against the distant golden shore,  
The starved and stunted human souls  
Are with us more and more.

Vain is your Science, vain your Art,  
Your triumphs and your glories vain  
To feed the hunger of their heart  
A famine of their brain.

"Your savage deserts howling near,  
Your wastes of ignorance, vice, and shame,  
Is there no room for victories here,  
No field for deeds of fame?

Arise and conquer while ye can  
The foe that in your midst resides,  
And build within the mind of man  
The Empire that abides."

### WIDOWS AND ORPHANS FUND.

It will be noticed from Dr Warden's statement in another column that the receipts for the Widows' and Orphans' fund are, at this date \$1,650 less than they were a year ago. This is very much to be regretted. The fund is one which ought to appeal strongly to all of our people, especially to the more intelligent of them. There are at present 128 widows and 66 orphans on the fund, some of these being dependent largely on it for their means of support. Many of the annuitants are the widows of ministers who served the church in the earlier history of the country, when salaries were smaller than they are now and when it was difficult to make ends meet. The annuity for a widow is only \$150 per annum. Are there not many individual friends who will regard it a privilege to help this fund? Any of our readers who desire to do so should forward their contribution to the Rev. Dr Warden, Toronto, within the next ten days.

The Rev. Louis H. Jordan, formerly of St. James Square, Toronto, now of Cambridge, England, sent to the Rev. Dr. Dickie, of the new American church in Berlin, a Christmas gift of \$1,000, to be applied to endow "The Canadian Pew" for the use of students or visitors from the Dominion. Mr. Jordan desired in this way to establish a memorial for his mother. Dr. Dickie's new church is a handsome and imposing structure, and is due in large measure to the generosity of a wealthy American gentleman who presented the congregation with a liberal cheque. Dr. Dickie will be remembered by many of our readers. He was at one time pastor of St. Andrew's church, Berlin, Ont.

## JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

The news that Japan and Russia are in armed conflict is indeed momentous. In this case prophecy would be unusually futile; we shall not attempt it. This may safely be said, that whenever and however the war may end, everything in the world, particularly the standing and relationship of the Powers, will be a little, perhaps much changed.

In this war the naval forces came first together, with the advantage in the initial clash decidedly in favor of Japan. Whether this naval advantage can be maintained, and what the issue of the meeting of the respective land forces, time will tell.

A first sight it would seem as if Russia, though slow to move, would eventually, through her huge force and vast bulk, be sure to crush her smaller opponent. There has always been something mysterious and awe-inspiring about Russia—a country of which we know so little; despotically ruled; without parliaments or municipal institutions; without liberty of press or speech; inhabited by an unsophisticated people, mostly without education, capable of great sacrifices, having fanatical veneration for the Czar, and yet susceptible to all sorts of fads and vagaries, as witness those exhibited by the Doukhobors—the mass of the people seen intellectually like a nation of big children. There is another class, clamoring for liberty and self-government, quicker witted, out of whom Nihilists are made, and to whom more than one Czar has paid in assassination, the penalty of absolutism. At the top of the State are the governing classes, credited with much astuteness in diplomacy, an invincible, never-resting tendency towards territorial aggrandizement, and a resolute idea of some future day seeing the Slav head of the world. It is held by many that Russian statesmanship, unhampered by free parliaments, and assisted by large secret service expenditures, does have many immediate advantages over that of the free nations. The other view is that ultimately, the only really strong nations must inevitably be those which are united by all the units of common intelligence, common knowledge of all that is happening, and through the operation of a representative system participating as it were, personally in the government of the nation. It is our opinion that Russia will, in time, be compelled to yield to these progressive influences to which Japan has responded, and to which even China cannot much longer be impervious.

Coming to Japan, that country is in many respects as great a mystery as Russia. The manner in which Japan but a few years ago a hermit country, closed to outsiders, has embraced modern ideas, and attained the full panoply of Western civilization, is marvellous in the extreme. In the war with China it did as it pleased with its opponent; and in its naval exploits in the present war with Russia the exhibition of alertness, energy and ability in warfare could not have been surpassed. It is well to remember war with China is