

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

CHARM OF QUEBEC.

Dear, delightful old Quebec, with her gay walls and shining tin roofs; her precipitous, headlong streets and sleepy squares and esplanades; her narrow alleys and peaceful convents; her harmless antique cannon on the parapets and her sweet toned bells in the spires; her towering chateau on the heights and her long, low, queer smelling warehouses in the lower town; her spick and span caleches and her dingy trolley cars; her sprinkling of soldiers and sailors with Scotch accent and Irish brogue and Cockney twang on a background of petite bourgeoisie speaking the quaintest of French dialects; her memories of an adventurous, glittering past and her placid contentment with the tranquil grayness of the present; her glorious daylight outlook over the vale of the St. Charles, the level shore of Montmorenci, the green Ile d'Orleans dividing the shining reaches of the broad St. Lawrence, and the blue Laurentian Mountains rolling far to the eastward, and at night, the dark bulk of the citadel outlined against the starry blue, the tramping of many feet up and down the wooden pavement of the terrace, the chattering and the laughter, the music of the military band, and far below, the huddled house-tops, the silent wharves, the lights of the great warships swinging with the tide, the intermittent ferry-boats plying to and fro, the twinkling lamps of Levis rising along the dim southern shore and reflected on the lapsing, curling, seaward sliding waves of the great river! What city of the New World keeps so much of the charm of the Old!—Henry Van Dyke.

A GOOD TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

Two small boys stopped in front of a saloon, and an old man standing near listened to what they said.

"Let's go in and take a drink," said one of them.

"I don't think we'd better," said his companion, "my father's terribly opposed to saloons. I don't know what he'd say if he knew I'd been in one, and drank liquor there."

"Just for the fun of the thing, you know," urged his friend; "of course we'd stop with one drink. There couldn't be any harm in that."

"My boys," said the old man, coming up to them, "you don't know what you're talking about. If you go in there and take one drink, you're not sure of stopping there. The chances are that you won't, for I tell you—and I know what I'm talking about by a bitter experience—there's a fascination about liquor that it takes a strong will to resist after the first taste of it, sometimes. Take the first drink, and the way of the drunkard is open before you. Only those who let it entirely alone are safe. I know, for I've been a drunkard a good many years. I expect to be one till I die. I began by taking a drink just as you propose to do—for fun—but I didn't stop there, you see. Take the advice of a poor old wreck—and that is, never take the first drink."

"You're right," said the boy who had proposed to visit the saloon. "I thank you for your good advice, sir. I say, Tom, let's promise each other never to take the first drink."

"All right," said Tom, and the boys clasped hands on their pledge.

"That's a good temperance society to belong to," said the old man. "I wish I'd joined one like it when I was a boy."

It is worthy of note that the longest known time during which snow fell in England occurred in 1614. It will be found recorded in the register of the parish of Wotton Gilbert that snow fell on the 15th day of January and from that time every day until March 12. The loss of human life and cattle was immense.

THE SEATTLE SPREAD.

The richness and variety of the feast provided in the programme for the Twenty-third International Christian Endeavor Convention to be held at Seattle, Wash., July 10-15, 1907, is revealed by the following interesting analysis.

There are 182 separate meetings for which speakers must be provided.

130 different speakers are assigned parts on the programme.

The nations represented are the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America, Africa, England, Ireland, China, Japan Russia with greetings from many other lands.

Among the denominations represented are the Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Methodist of Canada, Baptist, Free Baptist, Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Friends, Lutheran, Methodist Protestant, Presbyterian, Canadian Presbyterian, Protestant Episcopal, Reformed Presbyterian, Reformed Church in America, United Brethren, United Evangelical, and United Presbyterian.

Among the speakers are ministers, missionaries, statesmen, lawyers, editors, bankers, brokers, presidents of colleges and universities, school-teachers, business men, stenographers, and workers in nearly every department of business life.

The meetings will range from the great inspirational gatherings, with audiences of five or ten thousand, to the school of methods, with classes of fifty to five hundred.

The subjects presented include the training of the individual for personal character, and the training of individuals for service in the society, church, State, and world; in evangelistic work, missions, good citizenship, and worldwide brotherhood. Everything that goes to the making of all-round Christian manhood and womanhood will have its place and emphasis.

This Convention will give to the delegates a five days' vision of world-wide Christian activities that will be an inspiration for a life of service.

Half-fare rates on all railroads bring this feast within the reach of all.

HE WOULD NOT MISS HIS GOLF GAME.

(Toronto Saturday Night.)

Rev. Robert Campbell, D.D., of Montreal, the new Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, is one of the oldest ministers in the Dominion. He was ordained in 1861, and for over 40 years he has been pastor of the St. Gabriel Church, Montreal, doing in the meanwhile considerable literary work along the line of strengthening Presbyterianism in Canada.

Dr. Campbell is a man of strong convictions, and his outstanding characteristic is fearless independence. This is well illustrated by an incident which is said to have occurred a number of years ago in Montreal. Dr. Campbell has several hobbies. He is a currier and a botanist, but above all he is a golfer, and he finds his keenest outdoor amusement and chief relaxation on the links. He was formerly a member of the Protestant Ministerial Association of Montreal, and it was the habit of that body to meet on Monday. Now Monday was the day on which Dr. Campbell, somewhat worn by the labors of Sunday, felt himself most benefitted by a game of golf.

So he asked the association to be good enough to meet on Tuesday or some other day of the week. The association did not favor the suggested change, whereupon Dr. Campbell arose and said, pleasantly but with decision:

"Then I will bid you good-bye, gentlemen." And it is said that he never again appeared at the meetings of the association.

UNSPOKEN SYMPATHY.

He was a big, burly, good natured conductor on a country railroad, and he had watched them with much interest as they got on the train. There were two handsome, round-faced rosy-cheeked boys and three sunny-haired, pretty little girls of various sizes and ages. A grave, kind-looking gentleman, evidently their guardian, got on with them; and the conductor's attention was soon caught by the fact that the apparently eager conversation was carried on by means of the deaf and dumb alphabet, the gentleman joining in so pleasantly that the conductor beamed on him with approval. Naturally kind-hearted himself, it pleased him to see this trait in others. But his honest eyes were misty as he thought of his own noisy crowd of youngsters at home, and contrasted them with this prim little company who smiled and gesticulated, but made no sound.

It was plain they were off on a holiday jaunt, for they all had satchels, and wore a festive, "go-away" air; and the conductor, whose fancy played about them continually, settled it in his mind that they belonged to some asylum, and were going with their teacher for a vacation trip. He could n't help watching them, and nodding to them as he passed through the car; they returned his greeting in kind, being cheerful little souls, and he began to look forward with regret to the time of parting.

At length at one of the rural stations, the gentleman kissed the young ones hurriedly all round, and got off the train. They leaned out of the windows and waved enthusiastic farewells as the car moved on; then the biggest "little girl" took a brown paper bag from her satchel, and distributed crackers in even shares. The conductor, in passing, smiled and nodded as usual, as the little girl held out the paper bag to him.

"Do have some," she said.

He started back in sheer amazement.

"What!" he exclaimed; "you can talk, then—all of you?"

"Of course," they cried in chorus.

The conductor sank into the seat across the aisle. "I thought you were deaf and dumb!" he gasped.

"Oh, how funny!" cried one of the rosy-cheeked boys. "Why that was Uncle Jack, poor fellow! he was born that way. We wouldn't talk while he was with us; it might hurt his feelings, you know. Hello! here's our station. Come on, girls!" and the five trooped noisily out, and waved their handkerchiefs from the platform as the train moved on.

OUT OF THE WAY NOTES.

In all large cities criminals outnumber the police three to two.

The highest suspension bridge in the world is at Fribourg, in Switzerland, where one is thrown over the gorge of Gotteron, which is 317 feet above the valley.

Less tobacco is consumed in Great Britain, in proportion to the inhabitants, than in any other civilized country.

The area of the British Empire is 12 million square miles; its coast line is 43,000 miles; its population 400 millions.

The excavations in Rome being conducted on the Palatine Hill have shown a curious and interesting circumstance. The Necropolis has been found to contain remains of the ninth, eighth, sixth and fourth centuries before Christ. All fragments of the seventh and fifth centuries are lacking and archeologists are engaged in a close study of the field in order to find the reason.