

The Dominion Presbyterian

Is published at
75 FRANK ST. OTTAWA.
And at
Montreal and Winnipeg.

TERMS: One year (50 issues) in advance \$ 5.00
Six months " " " 2.50
CLUBS of five, at same time " 5.00

The date on the label shows to what time the paper is paid for. Notify the publisher at once of any mistake on label.

Paper is continued until an order is sent for discontinuance, and with it, payment of arrearages.

When the address of your paper is to be changed, send the old as well as new address.

Sample copies sent upon application.

Send all remittances by check, money order or postal note, made payable to The Dominion Presbyterian.

Advertising Rates.—15 cents per agate line each insertion, 14 lines to the inch, 11 1-2 inches to the column.

Letters should be addressed:

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,
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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, 5th APRIL, 1905

Belgium, where public libraries are almost unknown, enjoys 190,000 public-houses. That means one public-house for thirty-six inhabitants or one public-house for twelve men above seventeen years of age, the publican included. During the last fifty years the population has increased 50 per cent; the number of public-houses, 258 per cent.

It has almost become the fashion in Scotland for churches to send their ministers to Wales to study the Revival movement on the spot, and to return with the report of the eye-and-ear witness. But not usually is it done on such a large scale as that adopted in Aberdeen, whence five ministers, including Rev. R. Bruce Taylor, M.A., B.D., and Rev. J. S. Stewart, the two most popular United Free ministers in the city, were despatched to the scene of the Revival. They related their experiences to interested audiences.

The representatives of Presbyterian churches in Scotland have agreed to ask the Committees connected with their respective churches to recommend 21st May, 1905, as a suitable day for the commemoration of John Knox within their congregations. They also recommend that some special celebration should take place during the sittings of the General Assemblies this year. In this country no well defined plan for the proper celebration of the 400th anniversary of the birth of John Knox has yet been announced, although some Presbyteries have appointed committees to that end. Would it not be well for our General Assembly, when meeting in Kingston in June, to devote an evening to the memory of the great Scotsman, to whom Presbyterians owe so much?

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS.

Is there any practical method by which religious instruction could be given in public schools? There are many persons who do not see any such method, yet who would be glad if some practical plan could be found. When efforts have been made among Protestants to arrive at some common means of thus utilizing the daily opportunities afforded by week-day schools they usually came to naught through failure of the various denominations to see eye to eye. Yet it would be a mistake to have it thought the belief that religious instruction of some kind in the schools where reading, writing and arithmetic are taught, is desirable, is confined to the body of Christians known as Roman Catholics. Only the other day a well known and highly-esteemed clergyman of the Church of England wrote one of the Toronto papers regretting the absence of more effective religious and moral instruction in day schools as a serious lack. That view is shared by many Presbyterian ministers and laymen, who perceive the difficulties in the way.

A common saying with many is, the place for religion is the Church, the Sabbath School, and the Home; and, truly, religious instruction should emanate from all three. But it must be remembered many children never darken the Church or Sabbath School door, and that in too many homes religious teaching or even influence is either weak or non-existent. If the children of such homes get no religious impulse in the day schools, they do not get it at all.

When the Protestant churches found missions in heathen lands, they give chief attention to bringing under the influence of religious sentiments the children; and this, not alone one day of the week, but on every day in the seven. The same principle is equally as applicable to the heathenism, or the imperfect Christianization, found in lands which would resent being described as pagan.

It sounds logical enough to say public schools are for the intellectual quickening of children and the imparting to them of useful information, such as how to spell, read, add, subtract, tell a noun from a verb, and the like; but The Dominion Presbyterian considers there are things still more to be desiderated in the expanding life of a young immortal soul than how to spell, to read, to add, to subtract, or to tell a noun from a verb.

Canadian Baptist: Somewhere along the path of life, the kindness that we have shown will come back to us. Every deed of love goes on forever, and in its journeyings to and fro it will sometimes pause at the gate of our own lives, or burn its incense upon our altars.

Michigan Presbyterian: Every true soul feels the need of an armor as a protection against the evils that assail it from within. Our own companionship is sometimes our worst enemy.

A CANADIAN ON THE REVIVAL

Rev. Dr. Pollok, late Principal of Halifax Theological College, who is just now in Scotland, in a letter to the Presbyterian Witness, tells about the wonderful revival in Wales and the good it is accomplishing. In noting some objections raised against it, he says: "The enemies of religion are bitterly hostile; but the friends of religion rejoice. One complaint made by the rationalistic class is, that this kind of religion will revolutionize society as we have it, and drive away much that is innocent and becoming, extinguish amusement, and turn the face of things into a morose and repulsive wilderness. Another complains that it must vulgarize religion, and make it repellent to many. But, if religion makes men sober, quiet, and gentle, and renders them averse to all vice; if it makes them pay their debts, and make reparation for former dishonesties; if it keeps them away from places dangerous to morality; and, in short, makes them good citizens as well as devout Christians, then there is a kind of vulgarity which is much to be desired; and we can only pray that it may increase more and more, and extend far beyond the limits of Wales or the United Kingdom. Men seem to speak sometimes as if Christ had wholly abandoned His church, and as if we were not under the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Religion is possible only so far as it comes from above; and is communicated by Divine grace."

REVIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES.

The New York Christian Intelligencer notes that the revival wave is spreading throughout the evangelical churches in the United States. There is, it says, a spirit of expectancy and prayer which gives promise of greater things. The work of Rev. W. J. Dawson in New England, at Bangor and other cities in Maine, and then in Boston has resulted in an awakening of Christians and the enlisting of great numbers in an evangelistic campaign which is extending more and more widely and yielding encouraging results. Mr. Dawson was in New York and expressed himself deeply interested with the outlook for a powerful work of Grace. The Fulton street prayer-meeting, in which the great revival of 1857-58 had its beginning, and which has been maintained continuously, though many times at a low ebb, since February, 1857, has left the rising tide of religious interest, and its superintendent, Mr. F. H. Jacobs, was impelled to call a meeting for prayer in the Marble Collegiate church for Thursday afternoon of last week. The response was such as to betoken the wide desire and expectation of a revival. Men and women from all over New York and outlying towns came in numbers to fill the church.