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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor.

Ottawa, Wednesday, Oct 30th, 1901.

Why should we not have a monthly report of all money received at the Church Offices? Our religious papers would gladly give space to the report, and the Church would know where she stands, and whether she was meeting the requirements of her work or not. The Record reports the contributions, but makes no comparisons, and the interval of time is so great that few pay attention to the report. If in the first week of each month we had this report of all the Funds from the Agents, with a word of comparison, and of appeal if need be, it would be helpful.

The relation of the minister without charge to his Presbytery is not satisfactory. He has no standing, though he may have served for two score years in the limits of the Presbytery, when he resigns for any reason, except utter incapacity to continue, he must content himself with a place upon an appended Roll, without a seat in the Court. It is right that those who come to a Presbytery from the bounds of another after they have resigned should be placed upon the Appendix, but surely we might treat the minister who has taken his share of the work among his brethren with better courtesy than to shelve him in this way.

Two good workmen were called from their places recently. The Rev. A. B. Winchester, who had charge of the work among the Chinese in British Columbia was called to take charge of a metropolitan congregation. The Rev. Dr. MacKay of Formosa was called to higher work in the Master's presence. Their places have been filled, at least men have been appointed to fill them. Both men chosen are in the pastorate in Ontario. The Rev. John MacVicar of Fergus is asked to go to Formosa to assist Mr. Gauld in the work there. The Rev. Dr. Fraser Smith of Bradford is asked to take up the work that Dr. Winchester laid down. The answer of these men will be awaited with interest by the Church.

THE PRESBYTERIAN VOLUNTEER UNION.

To some of our readers the name at the top of this article may be nothing more than a name. Certainly the movement that it designates is not as widely known as it deserves to be. The object of the Union is described as an endeavor to secure and preserve an accurate enrolment of all volunteers for Foreign Missions, who are members of our Church. It also seeks to unite in one all who are so minded, and seeks further to promote and increase the interest in the Foreign Missions of our Church.

It is three years ago since the Union was first organized, and it began with an enrolment of one hundred members. Since that date forty-eight of those who then enrolled themselves have graduated, and so are in a position to offer themselves definitely for the Foreign Field. Ten have in the interval found it impossible, for good reasons, to carry out their desire, and have taken their names off the list, three of them having been led to choose instead, the work on the frontier of our own land. There are few who will find fault with them for so doing. Sixteen of those who still remain faithful to their first intention have received an appointment, and are now at work in the Foreign Field, two are now under appointment, seven have their applications before the Committee, while six others are looking forward to the time when they shall be able to take up their chosen work. That is a good showing.

In order to unite more closely all those who, in widely different parts of the Dominion, offer themselves for this work, and their names upon the Union's list, an effort has been made, with a good measure of success, to have some member of the Executive visit each one so enrolled, so that by personal conversation and interest the bond may be effected and strengthened. There is a difficulty in this, but those who have this matter at heart are sufficiently in earnest to overcome obstacles that would be serious enough to hinder men less enthusiastic.

The chief work of the Union is the fostering of the missionary spirit. From the heart of the organization in Toronto letters are continually passing to the men who have enrolled themselves, and these frequently contain suggestions as to the best methods to be used in increasing the interest in missions. The men are alert to use every opportunity that offers to speak of the work that lies so near their heart, and one result of their quiet persistence has been the steady interest in the Foreign Mission work of our Church, and knowledge of what is being done by our men.

During the past summer three of the members of the Union, that is three of the young men who have signified their wish to do work in the Foreign Field, and who hold themselves in readiness to go when the opportunity offers, have been touring in various parts of Canada, and speaking of the work of Foreign Missions. Our readers may know of these men, may indeed have heard them speak. We trust the interest we take in them and in the great work to which they have committed themselves may be more intelligent. We are indebted to this Union

for much of the information we now receive, and can do more to show our interest in it by making a fuller use of all its sources of information.

THE HUMAN TEMPLE.

Too little attention has been paid to the brief but weighty message sent by Very Rev. Principal Grant, from his sick bed—which many feared would be his death-bed—to the medical students attending Queen's University. In urging upon them the great importance of taking their profession seriously—"quite as seriously as the divinity students take theirs" he pointed out that "the old Pagan idea, that matter is evil and the body worthless, is only now giving way to the Christian idea of the sacredness of the body and the high duty of understanding its mysteries." Ringing words fitly spoken, and well would it be if they could be impressed, not only upon medical students, but upon the people at large and especially upon young people.

"The sacredness of the body" referred to by the Rev. Principal, is strikingly illustrated in St. Paul's epistle to the Corinthians—1 Cor. 6:19 and 2 Cor. 6:16—"Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost"; and "Ye are the temple of the living God." If this doctrine be true, with what care and vigilance should people protect so sacred a temple. Why should "the temple of the living God" be defiled by the use of intoxicating liquors and tobacco, by sensual indulgence, by gluttony, by rioting in pleasures of doubtful utility and morality, by overtaxing the physical system in the pursuit of pleasure or wealth—until the body becomes broken down, the mind a wreck and both become the prey of disease that might have been averted by observance of proper sanitary measures and common-sense regard for the laws of health! It is a serious matter to defile and ultimately destroy the body the Creator has given us as the earthly tabernacle of the immortal soul. And yet thousands of people—thousands of young people—are defiling and destroying this "temple of the living God," apparently without taking any thought of the terrible consequences of such criminal folly, by indulgence in immoral habits and pleasures and pursuits which infallibly lead down to death. It is surely high time that from the pulpit and the press, from institutions of learning and from the home, the people—and especially young people who have life still before them—should be admonished to remember "the sacredness of the human body."

The Rev. Principal Grant has sounded the key-note. It should be taken up and sounded and resounded by members of the medical profession, by ministers of the Gospel, by those at the head of our great educational institutions, by the thousand-tongued press, by Christian philanthropists, by Christian patriots everywhere who love their country and wish to see her great, free and prosperous in the highest and noblest sense of the term. The people who remember and act upon the principle that they are the temples of the Holy Ghost are the people who will be mainly used by God as the chief factors in bringing true greatness and honor, as well as material prosperity, to this Canada of ours.