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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

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J. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, June 1 1904.

Rev Dr. Coyle, retiring moderator of the American Presbyterian Assembly at Buffalo, preached a great sermon before giving way to his successor. Among other things, he protested strongly against the easy divorce system of the United States, describing it as "progressive polygamy."

As we go to press the Thirtieth General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in Canada, is meeting at St. John, N. B. There are no burning questions to come before the Supreme Court of our church; but there will be enough of important business to claim the best thought of commissioners for a week or ten days. We hope to present our readers with a good synopsis of the proceedings.

THE PRESBYTERIAN SUMMER SCHOOL AND MISSION.

At the Summer School at Knox College this year the department of Missions is to take a very practical turn. Rev. R. P. MacKay D.D., is going to conduct a study of Japan in connection with Foreign Missions, but at each session he will give some practical demonstration of missionary work, such as, the "Formation of a Missionary Committee," "an example of a Model Missionary Meeting" and "How to conduct a Mission Study Class."

In connection with Home Missions Rev. J. C. Herdman, D.D., will deal with such features as "The Missionary's Environment," "The Missionary's own Spiritual Life," and "The Missionary's Work."

Public addresses will be given at the evening meetings by Rev. W. C. Clark, B. A., of Brampton and Rev. Neil MacPherson, B. D., of Hamilton on Home Mission topics.

The complete programme will be issued in a few days.

PERSONALITY IN RELIGIOUS TEACHING.

We do not undervalue lectures designed to teach Sabbath School teachers how to teach; but if it is possible to undervalue technical training, it is also possible to overvalue it. "What is the chief factor in the religious training of the young?" asks the Rev. Alfred W. Wishart. In answer, he suggests that it is not dogma, nor method, but the personality, the soul quality of the teacher. The children in the Sunday schools of to day, writes Mr. Wishart, live in a world of new ideas respecting the Bible, both in its doctrinal and historical features, and it is important that they should not now be taught what they will some day have to unlearn. But it is even more vital that their religious teaching should come to them through the medium of a beautiful and inspiring personality. We quote further (from the New York *Examiner*, April 30) as follows:

"In an excess of zeal for method and scholarship, the chief element, humanly speaking, in the religious education of the child may be overlooked, or at least dethroned from its rightful supremacy. That factor is personality—a life sweetened by the grace of God, a life that appeals, with constraining love to the deepest spiritual forces of the soul. The impregnable argument for Christianity is not the results of historical research and criticism, but Christian character. The most potent influence upon the young is not the knowledge of the Bible which is imparted, so much as the grace of God working upon and in the child through a Christlike nature. We can scarcely overstate the value of a teacher's influence with a scholar who is able to grip the child's life with bonds of simple friendship. The unskilled in dialectics and lame in historical and Biblical criticism, a sensible, kindly, ordinarily intelligent and warm-hearted teacher may gently lead the young 'into the green pastures of a perfect trust in God, and by the still waters of a complete confidence in Christ.' On the other hand, unpleasant as the truth may be, it is true that a minister or a theological professor, learned in the literature of methods and criticism, a skilful teacher of the intellect, may be, by his unlovely and unloving disposition, a stumbling-block rather than a help to the young."

The opening article in the May Contemporary is by Dr. E. J. Dillon on "Our Friends, Our Ally, and Our Rivals," with the sub-headings: "The Anglo-French Convention: The Proposed Anglo-Russian Convention: How Long will the War Last? Anglo-Russian Relations and Tibet: The Turco-Bulgarian Treaty." This article gives in small space a somewhat full account of the eastern situation at the present time. Alex. Ular writes of "The Solution of the Tibetan Problem" and Ivanovich of "Japan, Russia, France." Other articles of special interest are: "The Tramp Ward," in which a woman writer tells of her experience at one of the country work-houses of England; "The Religion of the Schoolboy," and "Two Theories of Creation." Leonard Scott Publication Co., New York.

THE WORLD'S VERDICT.

We each live in a little world, the citizens of which are constantly passing judgments upon our undertakings and the way in which we accomplish or fail in accomplishing. It is pleasant when their judgment approves of us, and painful when they find fault. But in either case the judgment is imperfect, and there is something amiss about any worker who allows what the world may say to unduly influence him. In the nature of the case it is impossible for the world to judge with accuracy, for its knowledge is never full. It sees what has been done, but it does not see what the worker set himself to do; it sees the failure, but it does not see what forces battled against the toiler. It may cry shame when it should cry bravo, and may crown with flowers, where sackcloth and ashes would be more in place. And so we should never permit the world's judgment to settle things for us. Our friends may be unwisely merciful, and our enemies malevolently harsh. While many may be so indifferent that what they say counts for less than nothing. And yet a great many people are happy or miserable according to the way in which the world's verdict is pronounced.

It is not well to be indifferent to what people are saying, but neither is it well to be greatly concerned about it. For there is nothing more variable, nothing that sooner passes, nothing that has less eternal significance.

VITALIZED SPEECH.

Dr. Robertson Nicholl, speaking of several specimens of that rare genus, the perfect after dinner speaker, says it is very difficult to say where the art comes in. "There must be, for one thing, perfect self-possession; for another, geniality; for a third, humour; and for a fourth, a little wholesome seriousness." We suppose these qualities would not harm a public address of almost any sort. There is another necessary to a compelling or convincing speaker whether in the pulpit or out of it. He should make his subject a part of himself, and vitalize both. Many a man whose speech is halting and even jerky is nevertheless so much in earnest, and so seized of his message, that he makes an impression on those who hear; while sometimes a man with the fatal gift of too facile speech, while murdering no canon of form, stirs no hearer to high resolve.

A stiff previous conversational discussion might often rescue an intending speaker from merely conventional, surface interest in this subject; but chiefly his vitalization must be derived from a higher source.

THE JUDGMENT OF GOD.

We are too apt to think of God's judgment day as very far away, and as something that is to be manifested at a particular season and not till then. But the truth is that every day the divine judgment is passing upon us, and we may if we will read part at least of the sentence.