

Rev. Dr. Gordon On Presbyterianism

(Continued from page 3)

of unions of advocates and opponents of union. Whatever weight we may attach to the many arguments that may be urged in favor of union and whatever may be our personal predilections in regard to it, the outstanding fact is that there is resolute and apparently increasing opposition to it on the part of the membership of the Presbyterian church. The opponents are probably still in the minority, but they are quite determined that the Presbyterian church must be continued in its present organization.

It is evident, therefore, that if church union is consummated according to the bill for incorporation now before parliament, it must result in the very serious disruption of the Presbyterian church. And when it is stated, as in the preamble to the bill, that the Presbyterian church is a party to the petition for the act of incorporation it should be noted that this is very far from being the petition of the entire church. Indeed, according even to the figures of 1916 (which now it is believed fall far short of representing the entire number of opponents) there is a smaller proportion of members in favor of the act

of incorporation than would be required for the merging of two banks or other commercial institutions under the Joint Stock Company Act.

Will the minority, who are determined to maintain the existence and activities of the Presbyterian church, be denied the right to preserve the name of the church as hitherto known? This is to them a matter of serious moment. The advocates of union claim that by the act of incorporation the Presbyterian church is merged in the United Church and therefore ceases to exist as a separate organization. The minority claim that they will continue to be the Presbyterian church after the others have entered the new ecclesiastical organizations. Of course, the minority could agree to form a Presbyterian church; not even Parliament could prevent this, and the advocates of union admit it. And, for that matter, the body so formed would come to be known as the Presbyterian church. But the retention of the name and the claim of the minority to continue the present organization of the Presbyterian church might, if admitted, be held to carry with it the right to all the property of the Presbyterian church. This has been one of the chief obstacles in preventing any conciliation between the two contending parties. It might, however, be a matter of agreement between the two parties, that the minority should still retain the name but that the estate should be divided according to some equitable arrangement. The advocates of union might then be requested to make some agreement with the minority so that they would come before parliament with a united petition for the legislation required in the circumstances.

As to the terms and provision of the act:—It may be noted that parliament is asked to pronounce upon the spiritual functions of the church as well as upon the tenure of property. This, however, is to ignore the proper functions of parliament. The church has the right to live and act as a free self-governing body with supreme jurisdiction in spiritual matters. It is only in connection with the tenure and administration of property that the church is in any way subject to the decisions of parliament or of courts of justice. In the proposed act,

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however, parliament is asked to ratify and confirm the Basis of Union and the guarantee to the church, freedom to deal with her doctrines and teaching as the courts of the church may determine. While it is a grievous mistake for the church thus to ask the sanction of parliament in spiritual matters, it would surely be a mistake on the part of parliament, even at such a request to take action outside of its own proper jurisdiction.

Parliament has, however, certain rights and jurisdiction in regard to the tenure and administration of property by the church, as by any other body of citizens, and much of the act is devoted to the transfer of the property of the negotiating churches to the United Church.

The attempt is made to arrange for the assignment of certain properties to the "non-concurring" congregations. A commission is to be created to deal with all questions that may arise in connection with the division of the properties of the church, and the decisions of this commission are to be absolute and final, subject to no kind of review, civil or ecclesiastical. The effect, and manifestly the purpose of this provision is to forestall and prevent any litigation between the contending parties by closing against them all the constituted courts of justice and forcing them to accept the decision of this irresponsible commission. The appointment of such a commission could be justified only with the entire consent of both parties, otherwise it is grossly unjust. The minority, however, are not asked whether they agree to this arrangement, although they may, if they choose be represented on the commission. It is offered to them, as the only way to have their share of the property determined, and they are deprived of the right, which every citizen is supposed to possess, of access to the courts of justice. This is compulsory arbitration with a vengeance! Surely such a proposal cannot be sanctioned by the parliament of Canada as parliament stands for protection, not for the coercion of minorities.

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DANIEL M. GORDON

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TOWNS ORGANIZE NURSING CLASSES

Miss R.E. Hamilton, R.N. will conclude her work as organizer for Red Cross home nursing classes in New Brunswick within the next few days, being compelled to return to Ontario to take up important work for the society there. Her services have been the gift of the Red Cross head office to the New Brunswick division, and the province has been most fortunate in having Miss Hamilton inaugurate the home nursing classes which are being eagerly received. New Brunswick is now the only province which has not its own organizer of home nursing classes and it is thought that before long one will have been appointed.

Miss Hamilton had a successful trip last week. She visited Campbellton where a class was organized with Miss M. Campbell, public health nurse as instructor.

At Newcastle, Miss Hamilton attended the nurses' graduation and it is expected a home nursing class will be organized in that community shortly. At Chatham, where Miss Hamilton was the guest of Mrs. H. B. MacDonald a class is now in progress with Miss Martell V.O.N., as instructor. Burnt Brook, the next place visited has good prospects for the early organization of a home nursing class as it has a resident nurse. At Horton, the Red Cross nurse hopes to have a class started shortly. Moncton was visited on Monday of this week by both Miss Hamilton and Miss Ethel Hazen Jarvis, provincial secretary for the society, and the prospects are bright for the work to be taken up energetically in Moncton. The Moncton committee for Christmas cheer for the River Glade Sanatorium was interviewed also and this work will be well looked after.

On Tuesday Miss Hamilton was in Salisbury and her programme for last week included a visit to St. Stephen for Wednesday and St. Andrews on Thursday and Grand Manan on Friday.

Have You The Habit

At 10 o'clock Monday morning a disagreeable business situation came to me through the mail—a situation confronted me that was most annoying. There were papers before the writer that needed attention; but I was very busy on Monday and put off taking care of the papers as I should have done.

Tuesday at about 11 o'clock the papers appeared before me again and to tell you the truth they bothered me very much and I said to myself: "I'll straighten out this situation early Wednesday morning."

Wednesday at 2 o'clock in the afternoon I picked up the papers that gave me a good excuse and I postponed the care of these important papers for a little later.

Thursday came along and even my Rotary Day failed to have its influence on my plans of Service. The truth is, those darn papers were bothering me and I welcomed an excuse to attend Rotary and try to forget them.

Friday morning found me unexpectedly called out on a very important mission, and by afternoon I was so tired that I said to myself: "Saturday I will positively see to these papers."

Saturday was a half day and I had no time in the morning, so I put the papers in my pocket to study them over during the week-end rest. After dinner Saturday evening on carefully examining the papers it was found that I had a real problem on my hands. By several postponements I had brought about a situation that was going to cost me money, time and personal embarrassment.

Saturday night I tried to sleep,

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Halifax, Nova Scotia.—"I am a maternity nurse and have recommended Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to many women who were childless, also to women who need a good tonic. I am English and my husband is American, and he told me of Lydia E. Pinkham while in England. I would appreciate a copy or two of your little books on women's ailments. I have one which I keep to hand. I will willingly answer letters from any woman asking about the Vegetable Compound."—Mrs. S. M. COLLEMAN, 34 Prince Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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Dublin, Ontario.—"I was weak and irregular, with pains and headaches, and could not sleep nights. I learned about Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound by reading the letters in the newspapers and tried it because I wanted to get better. I have got good results from it and I feel a lot stronger and am not troubled with such bad headaches as I used to be and am more regular. I am gaining in weight all the time and I tell my friends what kind of medicine I am taking. You may use my letter as a help to others."—Mrs. JAMES RACHO, Box 12, Dublin, Ontario.

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business men and even our business associates—how natural it is to postpone the disagreeable duties.

We put off and pile under, the things we should put on and put over.

We pay fortunes to the misfortune of—Procrastination.

Put it precisely this way: Promptness pays big dividends and avoids much misery of mind.

The advantage found in this article can be summed up like this: Can you apply in personality; have you the put-it-off-ekie habit? If you have this habit, the habit will ultimately have you. It had me.

Remember: We do the pleasant things promptly. The perplexing duties we delay, but by George! we must pay.

PROTECTING PARTKIDGE

With the idea of protecting the partkidge it is proposed that a new law be passed and rigidly enforced prohibiting the shooting of partkidge within several hundred yards of any highway. This would mean that automobile drivers could not shoot from their cars.

Many Civil Servants To Retire This Month

Hundreds of civil servants through out the country are retiring this month under the provisions of the Calder Act which expires at the end of October. The terms of the enactment are considered to be more liberal than those of the Superannuation Act, because in addition to their retiring allowance civil servants may withdraw in full their payments into the retirement fund. A great many who are nearing the age of retirement figure out that it will be to their financial benefit to leave under the Calder Act before it goes off the statute.

A record was reached in a case before the treasury board when a man, now retiring, had been sixty three years in the public service.

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