

# The Dominion Presbyterian

Is published at

75 FRANK ST. OTTAWA.

And at

Montreal and Winnipeg.

TERMS: One year (50 issues) in advance \$ .50  
Six months ..... \$ .25  
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 arrears.

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,  
P. O. Drawer 1070, Ottawa  
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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, 22nd MARCH, 1905

The Presbyteries of Owen Sound, Kingston, Orangeville and Victoria, B.C., nominate Rev. Dr. Armstrong for moderatorship of next General Assembly.

In Toronto disappointment is felt at the refusal of Prof. Denny, of Glasgow, to entertain the invitation to Knox. The names of Principal Falkner, of Halifax, and Prof. Kirkpatrick, of Winnipeg, are now mentioned in connection with the vacant principalship of Knox.

Rev. Dr. Ramsay, of this city, continues to be nominated by Presbyteries for the chair of Old Testament Exegesis in the Montreal college. Rev. Dr. Smith of St. Catharines was also nominated by Paris Presbytery for the chair of Practical Theology at the same place; while Rev. J. McDougall, of Spencerville, and Dr. Wilson, of Winnipeg, were suggested for the chair of Apologetics and Church History respectively.

John H. Converse, of Philadelphia—whose active and prominent connection with the Presbyterian Church, is well known on this continent—has presented the board of foreign missions in the United States with the sum of \$50,000, the understanding being that so much of it as may be found necessary shall be used to found a theological seminary in a suburb of the city of Mexico. The board has appropriated \$40,000 for this purpose. A well-equipped theological seminary in such a centre cannot fail to prove an important factor in that country, whose administration maintains a large degree of civil and religious liberty. Why should not wealthy Presbyterians in Canada undertake to be their own executors by making generous disposition of their estates endowing in such lines of Christian work as commend themselves to their judgment.

## HORRORS OF WAR.

The horrible war between Russia and Japan continues. Much of the war might well be called butchery, so frightful has been the cost in men killed and lacerated. The modern weapons of destruction, about which militarists were so curious, have justified themselves scientifically as having proved phenomenally murderous. The war comes before the so-called civilized nations as an object-lesson showing the essential barbarism of such a method of settling national disputes. Two nations cannot agree, whereupon each brings out several hundred thousand men tacitly agreeing that the decision shall depend upon relative success in the work of slaughter. And this at the beginning of the Twentieth Century! Let us hope the object-lesson of horror may quicken the movement for the settlement of national disputes by arbitration, just as individual disputes are now settled, mainly by means other than physical combat. The last trouble between Russia and Great Britain, respecting the firing into British fishing-boats by a Russian war-vessel, was amicably settled by the common-sense method named. Will any one say it would have been better to have settled it by means of shot and shell, and heticombs of dead and wounded? Applied Christianity ought to render it unnecessary to work the manufactories of cannon and bombs night and day as at present.

## HOME MISSIONS.

It is satisfactory to learn from the proceedings of the Home Mission Committee there has been good progress in all directions. During the past year ten augmented charges west of Lake Superior became self-sustaining; while both from British Columbia, Manitoba, and the Northwest Territories come reports of substantial increases in local contributions to mission work. It has been decided to open up a considerable number of new fields—in fact, they are being opened up constantly. God has richly honored the Presbyterian Church in allowing it to do so admirable a work in the North-West; but that work should be regarded as only at its beginnings.

Our churches, I fear, are too often delightful social clubs, and not propagandist centers. Cultivated parochialism holds them together, and the imperial side of Christianity is forgotten. But there is this menacing fact, that people are growing away from the churches and the growth of the population is much more rapid than the growth of the churches. We are regarding them as mere barracks, and we drill our forces on the barrack field instead of mobilizing them for an active propaganda. Fighting and conquering is the only way, and it must be done, or another generation will find the churches going backward and not growing.—Rev. W. J. Dawson.

## INDICTMENT OF "YELLOW PULPITISM."

"Yellow" methods are rampant not merely in journalism but in religion, if we may accept the statements of a recent writer in the New York Independent, who bases his observations on the perusal and classification of a year's "Religious Notices" in the metropolitan newspapers. He thinks that the Saturday advertisements of many of the churches are "unpardonable" in their "vulgarity and illpoanacy," and adds: "It seems to me that the very same principles are applied here as elsewhere, but without the same effect. Every trick of successful advertising in other departments is imitated, but in no single case is the imitation ever so clever as the original; in fact, it is not often clever at all." To quote further:

"There are some special things, perhaps half a dozen, upon each one of which, in turn, stress is laid in the hope that it will attract a congregation. In one whole group for example, all the emphasis is laid on the music... Matters continue much as they were at the dedication of Nebuchadnezzar's image; the people are bidden to 'fall down and worship what time they hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psalter, dulcimer, and all kinds of music.' One notice refers to 'a new organ,' another mentions a 'string quartet and organ,' another boasts of 'stringed instruments and a chorus choir,' somewhere a 'famous quartet will be present and sing'; somewhere else 'the music will be under the direction of Professor X. and the singing will be led by Madam O., the favorite soprano,' while, in still a third place 'Herr B., the distinguished cornetist, will perform.' One church advertises a 'cellist and contralto,' another an 'imported tenor,' another a 'basso soloist,' and still another the fact that there will be 'violin music and euphonious solos,' whatever they may be."

From the group of "musical" notices in which the name of the preacher does not appear at all, the writer passes on to a consideration of the type in which the minister's name and the subject of his address are given, first in a subordinate position, and finally as the most important features. He continues:

"As regards the actual texts themselves here are some instances taken at random and set forth in terms of their literal wording. They are all genuine. Not one is my own invention. I could not have invented them if I had tried. I am not at all sure that I have got that were singular, nor even that I have chosen the most startling; for by the time that I had read the list half through nothing any longer looked strange or surprising. When taken out of their setting this is how they look in cold print: 'Seeking Grass for Mules and Finding Elijah'; 'A Great Gulf Fixed, one of a series of Trumpet Blast Addresses'; 'Nathan Said unto David, "Thou Art the Man"; or, The Crack