

The Dominion Presbyterian

IS PUBLISHED AT

323 FRANK ST., - OTTAWA

AND AT

MONTREAL AND WINNIPEG

Terms: One year (50 issues) in advance, \$1.50.

SPECIAL OFFER.—Any one sending us FIVE new names and \$5.00 will be entitled to a FREE copy for twelve months.

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

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

Send all remittances by check, money order, or registered letter, made payable to the DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN.

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

Sample copies sent upon application.

Letters should be addressed:—

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

P. O. Drawer 563, Ottawa.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,

Manager and Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12, 1908

In Toronto, the other day, in a case where a druggist was charged with selling Peruna to a license inspector, Dr. Naismith, Public Analyst of Ontario, testified that this so-called medicine contained 39.3 per cent. of proof spirits, or 22 per cent. of pure alcohol. And still this stuff, it is said, has a large sale among people who would not allow a bottle of whiskey or brandy to come into their houses.

It is noted in some quarters as surprising that Mr. D. W. Mills, K.C., son of the late Hon. David Mills, should be announced as one of the speakers at meetings in North Ontario in behalf of the sitting member, Mr. W. H. Hoyle, who is a Conservative. Aside from party politics altogether, Mr. Hoyle is a fine specimen of what our representatives in Parliament ought to be—clean, intelligent and devoted to the best interests of the country. For our part we cannot see why partyism should cut any large figure in the Provincial Legislature. There, as in the Commons, honest, capable men are what the country requires. Mr. Hoyle will well fill the bill.

There are some queer problems in the working of the Local Option Act. Nothing is more common than to hear that liquor is sold "as usual," or even in larger quantities than usual in many of the towns in which the Act is supposed to be in force. A detective goes to one of these towns, makes some arrests, and, as a rule, the alleged seller will swear he never sold any, and the alleged buyer will swear he never bought any. On the sworn testimony of those who know most about the business there is no liquor sold. The Act is an unqualified success—if you can believe the people who know most about its effects.

"THE CHURCH OF OUR FATHERS."

Presbyterians use this phrase more frequently than any other denomination. We hear it on all special occasions, and on some occasions that are not very special. It is often found in ordination sermons, induction addresses and missionary speeches. It is a good phrase to point an appeal or round a sentence. When used by a good speaker it always has power, especially over audiences composed mainly of old country people. No wonder that it should have power. So long as men admire the noble, the brave, the heroic, the true, the history of Presbyterianism cannot fail to move their hearts. How can we best show our love for the Church of our fathers? By doing all in our power to help forward that Church at home, and plant her principles in every land under the sun. The man who talks about the "Church of his fathers", but fails to pay his pew rent, does not love his fathers' Church as much as he loves his own money. There are such men. The man who boasts about the heroic achievements of his fathers' Church, and gives five cents a year to plant the principles of that Church in Manitoba, thinks more of the five cents than he does of the Church. The good man who cheers to the echo every reference in a speech to his "martyred forefathers," and pays twenty-five cents a year to send the gospel that served these "fore-fathers" to the heathen, is scarcely the material out of which successors to these martyrs could be made. By all means let us be proud of and grateful for the great deeds of our fathers, but let us shew our appreciation and gratitude in a practical way. The man who won't give his time and his money to disseminate the principles of his fathers' Church, doesn't care much for his fathers or the Church either, no matter how he talks.

Rev. J. F. Dickie, D.D., formerly minister of St. Andrew's Church, Berlin, Ont., but for several years pastor of the American Presbyterian Church in Berlin, Germany, has just resigned. The resignation, it is said, is the outcome of a bitter quarrel between the minister and Ambassador Tower. A press report says: "Pastor Dickie remains in Berlin, however, in order to finish his book. He has won the personal friendship of the Kaiser, and on Friday he visited Dr. Dickie's church without permitting the American embassy to know of his intention, which diplomats consider a slight for Ambassador Tower."

The British Temperance League, the oldest and one of the largest of English temperance organizations, is making an appeal to all sections of the Church to take in an effective measure of temperance reform. Among other things urged are Sunday and earlier closing, prohibition of the further engagement of barmaids, and an early termination of vested interests created in licenses. Over two thousand replies have been received from the clergy of the Church of England, and of these eighty-six per cent. give their emphatic adhesion. The signatures include twenty bishops.

THE PRESS AND SENSATION-ALISM.

Dr. Joseph Parke, the great preacher of the City Temple church, London, once said:

If it were in my power to preach the most splendid sermon ever uttered by mortal lips, not a newspaper in the world would take the slightest notice of it; but if I put up an umbrella in the pulpit, or tore the pulpit Bible in two, many a paragraph would report the eccentricity. A splendid sermon would be thought of as interesting only to a few, but an act of folly would be regarded as of universal interest. Thus it is (though it may not seem so) that things get into history. Any man living can have a world-wide notoriety tomorrow, can have his name telegraphed throughout the whole range of civilization, and be the subject of editorial comment throughout Christendom.

Ten thousand preachers may preach good Gospel sermons on any given Sabbath, and the telegraph and daily press are quite silent about them. But if one preacher in a large city should stand on his head in the pulpit or slide down the pulpit railing backwards to illustrate the sin of backsliding, the world would hear of his eccentricities early next morning. It is in this way that heresy always gets so well advertised. A sensible, helpful sermon is heard by the congregation it is preached to; a senseless, sensational or heretical sermon is telegraphed over the world.

Why should the news columns of the daily press be largely filled with the follies and crimes of mankind? The explanation is too easily given—because that is the kind of matter too many people like to read. The fault is not mainly that of the publisher. Presumably publishers know what their patrons wish to read, and are willing to pay for. If a man who reads every day much of what is called "news" wishes to keep his mind in a healthy condition, he should be careful to read enough of better matter to counteract the effect of the "news." If he does not do so, he must soon come to the conclusion that the human family is mainly composed of knaves and fools.

Mr. W. Thomson Smith, an office-bearer in St. Andrew's church, Strathroy, who recently resigned the management of the Traders' Bank in that town, was recently the recipient of a valuable chime-clock. The presentation was made by Mr. John Pool, manager of the Traders' Bank, St. Mary's, representing a number of young men now occupying positions of trust in various banks at different points in Canada. Mr. Thomson Smith is held in high esteem by the two score or more of those who took their training under him; and they will greatly value through life the good example and high ideals which he constantly placed before them.

We direct attention to the annual report of the North American Life Assurance Company, which indicates continued prosperity for this well-managed institution. Mr. John Blaikie, the veteran president, is still at his post; and Mr. G. L. Goldman continues as Managing Director. It will be seen that the business of the year was considerably in advance of that reported at the previous meeting.