

# The Dominion Presbyterian

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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

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S. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, Jan. 27 1904.

The annual rates of ministers to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund are payable in advance on the 1st of November each year. Those for the Aged and Infirm Minister's Fund are payable on or before the 15th of January each year. Circular letters have been sent to all ministers, reminding them of this. It is hoped that those who have not yet forwarded their rates will do so without delay.

The state of Rev. Professor Jordan's health has been subject for concern to his friends for several months past. His physician prescribed total cessation from work and rest; and on Saturday last he sailed from St. John for a prolonged absence in Britain. Many friends all over the Dominion will wish him a good voyage and a safe return home in fully restored health. Mrs. Jordan accompanies her husband.

Rev. Dr. Lyle, Convenor of the Augmentation Committee, writes: Permit me to ask the attention of the members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church in Canada to the state of the Augmentation Fund. At present it is \$1,000 less than it was at the same date last year; and the expenditure, owing to the great growth of the Church, is \$3,000 more. If the present minimum is to be maintained, congregations must act more faithfully and much more liberally towards this most important Fund. Let me ask the earnest attention of the pastors and of the members of aid giving congregations, of augmented charges, and of mission stations to the urgent claims of this Fund to a more generous support. The best interests of our beloved Church and land call on us to support this Fund much more generously than it has been in the past. Can you help us? Let us have your sympathy, your support.

## CIVIC RIGHTEOUSNESS.

In the recent civic elections at Toronto, it has now been proved, what is called "plugging" was extensively practised. For example, in one ward division, of the last 25 names recorded by the poll clerk as having voted, of 15 names seen by a newspaper representative, 12 declared they had not voted. Yet these names had been voted on by the sort of gentry euphoniously denominated "pluggers." It is the duty of the Toronto City Council to institute a thorough investigation into the circumstances. A few of the criminals in jail would be a wholesome spectacle and moral tonic. The Toronto incident corroborates what THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN said some months ago—that a higher tone of opinion is needed in connection with municipal elections, so many people seeming to think the only sin in "plugging" by personators is the sin of being found out. It is said by those who know, that as often as not the persons carrying on the municipal business of cities never received the majority of votes honestly cast! In that case, municipal elections are but training schools for electoral crookedness in still more important contests. Public opinion needs to be awakened and perhaps some new preventive and punitive legislation may be needed.

## THE S.S. HOME DEPARTMENT.

Perhaps some of our readers may not know much about the new movement now creating so much attention, the "Home Department" in connection with Sabbath School work. The theory, to begin with, is that every person connected with a congregation, from the infant class toddlers up to persons of 80 or 90 years, should be connected with the Sabbath School. If they can attend at the school, all the better. But as this is impracticable, then the members of the "Home Department" undertake to study at home for a half hour each week the same lesson that is being studied in the School. To this end, the visitors see that members are provided with everything necessary in the shape of lesson helps, record cards, small envelopes for the collection, &c. Where the Home Department has been tactfully and energetically worked, it has been found to deepen the interest of the congregation in the work of the School, and to give additional depth and stability to the religious life of the congregation. The best way to start the Home Department is for the visitors to first secure the names of all the elders, managers, and other official persons, as an example to the rest of the people. No doubt any information as to literature, and the simple machinery necessary, may be obtained by writing to any Sabbath School publication, or to our own Sabbath School authorities.

The movement has our warmest commendation. Nothing but good can come of this systematic study of the Word of God in companionship with all the rest of the congregation, young and old.

## THE INDIVIDUAL CREED.

Every great religious organization has some famous and ancient creed which is supposed to contain within it the most perfect form of truth to be obtained, and those who lay violent hands on such creeds are, in the eyes of the faithful, worthy of condemnation. Such documents have great value, and certainly the one who mocks at them is a son of the foolish. But the creed that has greatest importance is the one which is born of experience and which is peculiar to each individual. One may assent to a written creed, but the real creed for him is that which has become his possession through the passing years, things which he has found out for himself, and which rule his life. It is likely that he never puts this creed into objective form, indeed in the great number of cases he would not be able to formulate it, but it is there, the great reality that rules his life. He may listen to preaching that flatly contradicts his creed or articles, thereof, and may be sensible that he is not able to justify that which he believes to another, but he holds to it, nevertheless, with grim determination. He has found it out for himself and he is confident of its truth, and nothing that can happen will shake his conviction. If we could read one another's creeds, which have been thus formed, we might save a great deal of time that we otherwise spend in trying to convert men to our way of thinking. There is very little use of our effort when a mature man has made his creed through the years and rests upon it.

If we would know ourselves, let us examine that we may read our own creeds. Do we believe that righteousness is the soul of the universe? Do we believe that God is mindful of his creatures? We have said that such was our confidence, but is it? For if it is, then surely there is no room for fear on the part of him who seeks righteousness, and the lonely one need never despair. But many who declare that they believe these statements, seek advantage by unrighteous doing, and are often in gloom as they fear that which shall be.

And if we find that our professed creed is very far from the real convictions of our heart, then let us examine if we may not be led to some higher faith than that which rules us, and enter into greater peace.

## MODERN S.S. BUILDINGS.

We confess to sympathy with the movement, in some of our city congregations to provide separate Sabbath School buildings of the modern design, with adaptation to the needs of the various organizations of the Church. These cheerful modern structures, with abundant class rooms,—separate, yet capable of opening into a circular auditorium, give an opportunity for carrying on the Sabbath School and other work of the congregation with effectiveness and comfort. Such a building might well be called the congregation's work-shop.