

SPECIAL  
ARTICLES

## Our Contributors

BOOK  
REVIEWS

## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY.

Editor Dominion Presbyterian: My attention has been directed to an article in your issue of the 17th June last, bearing the title "Queen's and the General Assembly," calculated to leave a wrong impression as to the situation in which Queen's College is placed by the Assembly's deliberance on the reference made to it by the Board of Trustees of the University. You remark, "When all the facts are considered, we can scarcely expect those who have started the movement for a change in the constitution to sit down and quietly accept the Assembly's decision."

Let me remark in reply that the Board of Trustees as a body, abstained not only from judgment on the Memorial from the Senate, but even from comment upon it. They referred to the Assembly for advice because the question at issue was one which primarily lay with the church, the members of which constitute the college corporation. The trustees administer the affairs of the trust for the incorporators, in whose name the General Assembly has spoken; and of course, as trustees, they will cordially accept the advice which they sought and obtained, and will act upon it. I do not understand what you mean by saying: "Another year is given for discussion." There is no room for discussion, so far as the point before the Assembly is concerned; the transaction is closed.

The Assembly, in the face of all the strong influences to which your article refers, reaffirmed its judgment arrived at in 1904, after a constitutional consultation of the Presbyteries more immediately interested. It was not the first time that a committee misinterpreted the mind of the church. Judicious committees in 1900 and 1901 did so. And why? Because the reports they submitted to the Assembly never brought the issue before the church, which the Assembly of 1903 was asked to face at Vancouver. Too much has been made of the committee's findings in 1900 and 1901. They were only tentative, and they were finally disposed of in 1903. When the Assembly at Vancouver was called upon to consider whether it would sanction the serious and irrevocable step, of allowing the university to pass from under the possession of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, one man who had previously had no special interest in Queen's, got up and said that Queen's University was the biggest asset the Presbyterian Church in Canada had, and his words ran through the Assembly like an electric shock, and the proposed legislation, separating Queen's forever from the church, was stayed. If the university was then so appreciated, the argument has since gained in force, for it has found thousands of new friends, and has added upwards of \$300,000 to its endowment. May I in conclusion ask what ground you have for stating that the resolution actually passed by the Assembly asks the trustees to do something which they find to be impossible under present conditions. Professor Laird made a statement before the Assembly, which was not questioned, to the effect that with the completion of the \$500,000 endowment, there were ample funds in sight to carry on the work of the university satisfactorily, including making provision for retiring allowances. The best friends of Queen's regret that the glamor of the millions of endowments coming to other institutions of learning on this continent, seems to have upset the equilibrium of a portion of the staff of Queen's. Of course, if it thinks it must compete with Toronto University

in the way of having money to spend, it may at once resolve to wind up its history. But if its arts course, for which able professors have always been found, even when salaries were smaller than they are to-day, will continue to afford a general culture, such as has hitherto distinguished Queen's, and such as both the Church and the country have appreciated and profited by, and for the securing of which the Church will no doubt provide in the future as in the past, then, let other institutions spend their millions in specialties. There are other things besides spiritual secrets which money cannot buy; and the high tone of culture which has been traditional in Queen's is one of these things. The means at the disposal of the Board of Trustees, from the sources which at present yield a revenue, are likely to be adequate to continue to uphold the university working along its own unambitious lines. Yours faithfully,

ROBERT CAMPBELL.

Montreal, July 4, 1908.

## THE WAY OF LIFE.

The deepest sympathy is felt in every part of Canada for the Rev. Dr. Carmichael, of King, says the Toronto News. He is one of the unique figures of the Presbyterian Church. For over forty-five years he has been the minister of St. Andrew's Church in King and Vaughan, two townships which would be hard to match, not only in Canada, but anywhere in the world. Dr. Carmichael came to this part of Ontario when it was a backwoods country settled by pioneers. Today he is ministering to these pioneers' grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The houses have grown finer and the barns greater. It is no longer a backwoods country. But Dr. Carmichael has remained still the leader of his people. His resignation is to take effect during the coming autumn. The Rev. James Carmichael had two sons. He was left a widower in early manhood, and the boys had the tender care of a father who was as gentle as a woman. Dr. Carmichael is a strong adherent of Queen's University. He has lectured there for many years. He is one of the University's oldest graduates. Both sons went to Queen's. The elder, a brilliant student, after a distinguished course at home and abroad, was appointed at once to the staff of Queen's University. The younger studied medicine, and at the opening of a promising career was drowned in Kingston harbor. That was eight years ago. To-day all that is mortal of Professor Norman Carmichael, associate professor of physics in Queen's University, will be taken from his father's house to the quiet township cemetery. This sorrow comes to one of the gentlest souls among men. Proverbial for his humor, as pure as a child, as chivalrous as the most chivalrous knight, as tender in affliction as a woman, gifted with a poetic imagination, this paladin of the church has walked with patience all his days. It does not seem to be for the human race to understand the portion of life which falls to any single individual. But, while some seem to reach early in life with comparative ease the low perfection of which they are capable, better men taught by sorrow increase in higher perfections up to the last day of their three score years and ten. These are the spiritual leaders of the race. Yet we do know, since affection begets affection, that such men as Dr. Carmichael are much beloved.

## THE FADING OF IDEALS.

By Rev. W. T. Herridge, D.D.

In a sermon from the text: "The vision has gone from me," Daniel II. 8, the preacher said:

Not our doubts, nor our scepticism, was what we need to dread, but rather our unexecuted visions. Prophets were never superfluous in any age; the men who can read the future because they can read the signs of the times are needed, for only God can solve the great riddle of life, and only those whom God has educated can understand its interpretation or pass it on to others. The world needs dreamers of the right sort, who have learned the meaning of their dreams and possess the courage to fulfill them. The world needs both practical men and those who have visions. Man's best dreams come from God. We can make money without dreaming, and spend it, too; we can attain a certain measure of contentment; we can gain what some people call success, the kind of success which augments belongings and shrinks up the man; but if human life is to stand erect in the conscious dignity with which God endowed it, it must have a larger horizon than the things which surround it every day. We cannot help it that we are what we are; we have to pay the price of being more finely organized than the rest of creation. The springs of all sincere, heroic action lie far back among the hills of dreams. While the vision remains hope can never die. All great constructive enterprises must first take form in a man's own nature before they can take outward embodiment. Conduct can never rise above the level of character. Men differ, not because some have visions and others have not, but because some obey the visions they have and others do not. Mere intellect alone will never suffice to accomplish a great undertaking; it must be backed up by an earnest purpose inspired by a lofty ideal. Dante, Savonarola, Milton, Beethoven and Jesus Christ were instanced by the preacher for their sublime idealism, leading them to great achievement. If the heroic purpose goes, all the glory of life departs with it. He urged his hearers, especially the young men, to have the courage to obey those moral instincts which are deeper than any creeds and shibboleths. If they had made some mistake or fallen into some sin, if they had been disobedient to the heavenly vision, he reminded them that they had another chance, and exhorted them to seize it; though it might be harder than the first one, yet they had learned by their failure more of its value and he bade them "revel in hard work" to attain the heights before them. Virtue was not an accident, but an achievement; it would not come by chance or laziness; no one could be good who had not the possibility of being bad. To attain goodness we all had to fight for it.

Applying his theme to Canada, Dr. Herridge said that it seemed to him that in this land we should be able to keep the vision and dream. "In spite of the depression, a depression for which we are ourselves to a large extent to blame, since it is a kind of next morning after a debauch of prosperity, there is an inspiring prospect that confronts Canadian youth to-day. We are heirs of intellectual wealth accumulated from centuries; we have a culture of individuality to develop, we have a freedom bequeathed to us, and we have moral and religious principles drawn from the past, with a unique opportunity to shape them and make them effective for the problems of