

The Dominion Presbyterian

is published at

323 FRANK ST. . . . OTTAWA
and at

Montreal and Winnipeg.

TERMS: One year (50 issues) in advance \$1.50
Six months75
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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OTAWA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1907

Ex-Mayor Low of New York is to finance a great religious campaign in that city that will use ten tents. Mr. Low has been carrying on such work in a tent of his own for several years. It is good to see the men whom the people have honored, honoring God, says the Presbyterian Standard. Why cannot some of the wealthy Christian men of Canada undertake work of this kind?

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, in session at Winona, by a unanimous vote, declared the church ready for union with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The vote by Presbyteries stood 194 for and 39 against. The voting by Presbyteries in the Cumberland Church is not so pronouncedly in favor of union, but there will be a substantial majority in that direction.

The advance of temperance principles does not destroy business in Great Britain. During the past year the people of that country consumed less liquor than in any of the past fifteen years, and the advance in business in the same period is indicated by a revenue of \$15,000,000 in advance of the estimate made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The decline in the use of liquor, of course, left more money for expenditure on the necessities and comforts of life.

In speaking of Presbyterian ecclesiastical gatherings the Herald and Presbyterian remarks that there are eight general assemblies in the United States, one in Canada, two in Scotland, one in Ireland, and one each in Wales, Switzerland, Italy and Holland. Then there is the General Assembly of South Africa, in Pietermaritzburg, that of Australia, in Melbourne, and that of New Zealand, in Auckland. There is a Presbyterian Synod in Mexico, also in Brazil, in Persia, in Japan and China, and the New Hebrides, and in Europe, Presbyteries are a large and exceedingly respectable and efficient family.

At the forty-ninth anniversary of Irish National Temperance League, held recently, Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P., said that now for the first time they seemed to be making a real impression on the mas-

ses of the people. In Ireland he saw not only a substantial reduction in the drink bill, but an altogether changed state of public opinion. Irishmen did not drink for love of the drink. Except at fairs, markets, and wakes, there was comparatively little drinking in the country parts. The first establishment of an anti-drinking league in many of the southern counties had struck a tremendous blow at Irish drinking customs. Temperance also owed a great deal to the Gaelic League; and the Roman Catholic Church was now working hard for the same object. As for legislation, there would be no real temperance reform while this Parliament lasted. Premier Balfour, he said, had put impediments in the way of temperance reform which it would take years to break through.

An Irish Roman Catholic, Mr. Bart Kennedy, in a letter published in the London Daily Mail, gives utterance to the following scathing indictment of the priest power in Ireland:

"Ireland is under the shadow of an insolent and arrogant priest-power. The heel of the priest is on her neck. I have nothing to say against the Roman Catholic Church, for I am a Roman Catholic myself. I am a firm believer in the grand service that the Roman Catholic Church has done for civilization. I bow before the splendour of her wonderful and awe-inspiring ritual. A beautiful Catholic church is of far more value to mankind even in a utilitarian sense, than a factory. No one can deny the debt that mankind owes to Catholicism. But the Holy Roman Catholic Church has suffered before now from its priests. The deadliest enemies it has ever had have been priests. Priests lost for it Italy and France. Will they lose for it Ireland?"

An American Roman Catholic paper devotes three columns a week replying to questions from correspondents, and the Belfast Witness notes as one of the signs of the times that nearly all the suggested difficulties relate to Bible-interpretation. In a single issue we find readers who "want to know" why the Levitical priests and the early deacons and bishops were all married while "the Church" hold it a grievous sin for modern priests to marry. Another cannot understand why Christ should have interdicted "vain repetitions" in prayer while the Church blesses the rosary. But a third has a still more perplexing problem, and that is why Jesus warns His disciples against being bound by "the commandments of men" while "most of the laws of the Catholic Church were made by the Pope!" The Presbyterian paper from which this note is taken comments thus:—"Reading these questions, one realises anew how hopelessly at variance the Roman Church and the sacred Scriptures are. No ingenuity has ever yet availed to reconcile them. One may take his choice, but he cannot keep both."

Victor Hugo is the subject of a recent interesting discovery in the literary world. Mr. Henry Wellington Wack, while in Guernsey collecting material for an article on the exiled French poet, chanced upon a budget of letters written to Hugo by Juliette Drouet. As students of Victor Hugo know, his relation with Madame Drouet made the romance of Hugo's life. Mr. Wack, realizing the importance of his find, has written a book including the letters and giving a sketch of Victor Hugo's life at Guernsey, with many anecdotes and extracts from his correspondence illustrative of his personality. This book will be published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, probably with the title "The Romance of Victor Hugo. With Letters from Juliette Drouet." Hugo's own letters to Juliette were published in France

some time ago. Her love-letters in reply, or, perhaps, rather the letters which inspired Victor Hugo's correspondence, are now for the first time made public. They throw an interesting light on one

of the most remarkable attachments in literary history. The significance of Mr. Wack's discovery is recognized in France, and M. Francois Coppee has written an introduction to the book. No student of French literature, scholar or amateur, can afford to miss this attractive volume.

PERSONAL NOTES FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Anyone who has attended the meetings of the General Assembly for the past 10 or 15 years must be greatly impressed with the marked change which has taken place in the personnel of that great body. In this respect the thirty-first General Assembly differs strikingly from those of a few years ago.

Principals Caven, Grant, MacVicar, King; Drs. Thompson, Cochran, Proudfoot, Laing, and a host of others, whose faces and voices were familiar in every Assembly, are with us no more.

A few of the veterans, however, are still to the fore. Among these are Drs. Wardrope, Torrance, Fletdyer, McLaren, Sedgewick, Bryce and Campbell, Rev. J. B. Mullen, Elders Robt. McQueen, Judge Forbes, Geo. Hay and a few others.

Drs. Milligan and R. N. Grant of Orillia continue to furnish breeziness to the discussions, and Walter Paul, of Montreal, puts in an occasional oar in this direction. Dr. Armstrong, the moderator, has more than fulfilled the highest expectations of his friends as a presiding officer. He is calm, cool and says little but keeps the business perfectly in hand. The proceedings thus far have gone forward without a hitch of any kind. While Dr. Armstrong has a very determined look about him, he is genial within.

Two of the venerable members of Assembly, who may be seen daily seated on the Moderator's right, are Dr. Wardrope and Prof. McLaren. It is a notable fact that these two ex-moderators and the present moderator, Dr. Armstrong, have all been pastors of the same church, Daly street, Ottawa.

The absence of Dr. Warden is much felt and Assembly's expression of sympathy and its prayer for his speedy recovery were very touching. It was noticeable also that every proposal connected with the arrangements for giving him an absolute rest for six months was carried most heartily and with complete unanimity. Dr. Warden holds a strong place in the affections of the whole Church.

One of the elders in attendance, who is worthy a double honor, is Mr. J. K. Macdonald, the long-time convener of the committee on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. No man in Canada has done so much for the fund as Mr. Macdonald, and this fact is fully realized by members of Assembly.

Besides the moderator, others from the Ottawa district taking part in the Assembly are Dr. Bayne, Messrs. J. W. H. Milne, J. H. Turnbull, A. E. Mitchell, G. A. Woodside and E. S. Logie.

Rev. J. W. MacMillan, of Winnipeg, was appointed to take Dr. Warden's place as clerk and did his work to the satisfaction of all.

One of the striking features of this Kingston meeting is the almost total absence of unnecessary speaking. Thus far there has been but little waste of time in this way and as a result the business promises to be concluded earlier than usual.

This is called a Queen's Assembly, and certainly Queen's men are to the fore everywhere. Principal Gordon has risen to the occasion and has shown emphatically that he is the right man in the right place.

The appointment of the Rev. R. Laird, M. A., of Vancouver, as the financial agent of the University gives great satisfaction to all the friends of Queen's. Mr. Laird made a favorable impression on the Assembly.

There are three strong men from the West who have shown a fine spirit in all the work laid to their hands, Principal