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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,

Manager and Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1909.

The number of applications for divorce to come before the Dominion Parliament the present session has increased to twenty four and these all come from Ontario, Quebec and the three prairie provinces, the other provinces having divorce courts. Last year there were twelve applications, eight of which were granted, the other four having been withdrawn. The time has passed for Canada to point to the United States as a place where divorce has been made easy. And what of the morals indicated by this state of affairs?

The permanency of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, and that it is not to be a mere spasmodic effort, is guaranteed by the character of the men who are accepting permanent appointments in connection with it. Colonel Elijah W. Hatford, the founder and for many years editor of the Chicago Inter-Ocean has been secured as corresponding secretary of the movement in the Methodist Episcopal church of the United States. Col. Hatford was at one time private secretary of the late President Harrison, and is a speaker of unusual effectiveness, as those who heard him in Ottawa at the laymen's meetings last September can testify.

The proportion of Roman Catholics in the Capital city of Canada appears to be falling off, if the assessment returns can be taken as a criterion. The assessment of 1909 shows an increase in value of property among the supporters of Public schools of almost six million dollars over that of the previous year, while the increase among Separate school supporters is only \$358,000. The totals are: for Public school supporters \$38,943,037; for Separate school supporters, \$10,440,186. The rate of taxation is 6 1/2 mills for Public schools and ten mills for Separate schools. The Separate school authorities have got more children to educate than the Public School Board.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The American Presbyterian Church in Montreal, though not in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, is doing more than any one congregation for home missions in this country. It has just taken up its twentieth field in the North West. It recognizes the fact that the city holds two mighty sceptres—wealth and the power of the press—and that an obligation rests upon it, and all great city congregations, to use them for evangelism, for church extension, for missions for the lapsed and lapsing, and for the foreign people's coming to us. The church should have but one rallying cry—Canada for Christ. This aggressive congregation, which is under the pastorate of Rev. Robt. Johnston, D.D., formerly of Lindsey and London, Ont., has 1,386 members, and raised last year \$45,995, of which the larger part—\$23,362—was for home and foreign missions and benevolences, and \$22,633 for congregational purposes. This is carrying out the principle which the late Rev. D. J. Macdonnell always urged, that a wealthy congregation should spend at least as much upon outside objects as upon itself.

When the Rev. George Simpson wrote the leading articles, and Dr. Grant furnished a column of editorial paragraphs and his "Knoxonian" contributions to the Canada Presbyterian, dullness was banished from its pages, and it was eagerly read by thousands all over Canada and beyond. This was equally true after Mr. Simpson accepted the associate editorship of the Chicago Interior, and the Rev. W. D. Ballantyne, M.A., succeeded him. With both the editors, as well as with the managing editor and publisher, his intercourse was ever kind and courteous, always evincing a deep and lively interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the paper and the large interests it was striving to promote. Had Dr. Grant taken to journalism instead of the pulpit he would have made a great editor. His judgment was good, his style of composition clear and incisive; his knowledge of public affairs thorough and extensive; while his interest in all moral questions was keen and immensely practical.

Dr. Grant commenced writing his "Knoxonian" articles for the Canada Presbyterian while in Ingersoll. Among the first was one entitled "Rounders," which was an immense success, being copied into many papers on both sides of the Atlantic. It appeared in the Sword and Trowel in London, England, accompanied by words of warm commendation from the late Mr. Spurgeon. His contributions under this pen name were kept up with unflinching regularity for a number of years; and later in THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN to the great delight of a large circle of readers. They were always looked upon as "good copy" by the press and were reproduced far and wide.

We are indebted to The Orillia Packet for the report of the services connected with the death and funeral of Rev. Dr. Grant, as well as for the half-tone on first page.

## DEATH OF REV. DR. GRANT.

## The Passing of Knoxonian.

After a long and trying illness Dr. Grant passed away on Saturday morning, 13th February. For the previous two weeks he had been hovering between life and death, and it was not known at what moment the long and wearying struggle against disease might come to an end. In the end, having fought manfully and well against great odds as long as there was hope of continued usefulness, he was well content to depart and be with Christ, "which is far better."

Robert Neil Grant was born near Peterborough in the year 1837. His father, Alexander Grant, a native of Sutherlandshire, Scotland, had come to Canada in 1832. His mother was a native of Agnell, near Wick, Caithnessshire, Scotland. Alexander Grant was a man of more than average ability and attainments, and his wife, though for years an invalid, was a woman of strong character and high ambition, who found keen gratification in seeing her family rise to positions of honor and usefulness. In 1839, the family moved to what was then known as the Huron Tract, and settled in North Easthope, county of Perth. After passing through the common schools, young Grant attended the grammar school in the neighboring town of Stratford, which was then presided over by a teacher of more than ordinary ability and reputation, Mr. C. J. McGregor. Obtaining a teacher's certificate, he taught school for a time, his intention being to enter the profession of law. But he abandoned this idea, and decided to enter the ministry, not the least potent factor in bringing about the change being the evangelical preaching of the young minister at Millbank, the Rev. W. T. McMullen, from whom he also took lessons in Greek while teaching school in that village. In 1859 he entered Knox College, graduating in 1865. His father had died in the interval—in 1863. In the autumn of that year he received three calls—from Markham, Picton, and the united congregation of Waterdown and Wellington Square, the latter of which he accepted. The induction took place on the 23rd of January, 1866. For five years and a half Mr. Grant labored in this field with a good measure of success. He was for a greater part of the time a member of the Board of Education for the county of Wentworth. Owing to ill health, caused partly by driving between his two stations, Mr. Grant felt it necessary to change his field of labor, and in July, 1871, accepted a call from Knox church, Ingersoll. However, in 1882, steps were taken towards uniting the two congregations in Ingersoll, and as he had what turned out to be well-founded doubts as to the wisdom of the movement, he decided to leave that town. He therefore was open favorably to consider the call given him by the Orillia congregation in May of that year, on the retirement from active service of the Rev. Dr. Gray.

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