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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, Dec. 3 1902.

If the final outcome of the present temperance agitation should be the abolition of the open bar, and a great accession to the present army of total abstinents, much good will have been achieved. Work with the young people, particularly. They are the future.

Our contemporary, the Toronto Globe has the knack of discovering good special writers. Among its comparatively recent discoveries are "Lally Bernal," the descriptive writer, who gives charm to any subject; and Mr. Burriss Graham, the bright Toronto 'Varsity graduate, who is writing some unusually illuminative letters from the Australian States.

According to a recent author, the sin of sins of the modern Church, and no doubt of the individual Christian, is Phariseism, against which Christ so strongly inveighed. Probably no one—(you for example)—is as good as he thinks himself; and possibly no other person is as bad, circumstances considered, as you consider him. Is there any temptation more subtle, more common, than the disposition to stand—the highway of the heart, and exclaim, "God, I thank Thee that I am not as other men." When you see a reeling drunkard, do you not, half-consciously, say to yourself, "I am better than he"? But are you?

Letters on the scarcity and inefficiency of domestic help still appear in the papers. It might be a sort of indirect comfort to modern housewives to learn, from Pepy's Diary, that Mrs. Pepys had a good many of the common annoyances of today three or four hundred years ago. This servant was inefficient; that servant was impudent; this one did not know her place; that one spoiled the roast, and so on. Were the servants really always at fault; or did some of the fault reside with pretty, pouting Mrs. Pepys herself? We are apt to be strenuous in our spoken or unspoken criticisms of those in our employ. Does it ever occur to wonder what they think of us?

THE NEW PRINCIPAL OF QUEEN'S.

It is stated that the Rev. D. M. Gordon, D.D. has been offered and has accepted the Principalship of Queen's University. Dr. Gordon is a man well-known in the Presbyterian Church, as before his call to the professorship he rendered valuable services in important pastorates in widely separated parts of the country; he is cordially admired by his brethren in the ministry who regard him as a good scholar and a thorough gentleman; further he is respected by outsiders who look upon him as a liberal-minded Presbyterian and a representative Canadian. From the first there were many who looked upon Dr. Gordon as the most suitable successor to the late Principal Grant, while many expressed the fear that his physical strength would not stand the strain of such a laborious position. We are glad to hear that Dr. Gordon has been for some time in good health and that he is likely to enter his new duties in a hopeful, courageous spirit. The position at Queen's is in itself very hopeful, thanks to the late Principal and the many able workers that he gathered round him. The right of Queen's to exist, as one of the most important educational institutions in the province of Ontario, is no longer a matter for discussion. But there are many difficult and delicate questions concerning the relation of the University to the Church and the country, which demand careful consideration and wise action. The Principal elect is a man of wide experience and good sense whose influence will be on the side of steady progress, not sudden revolution. The fact that Queen's has such a large body of students and a capable staff gives it a life that is not dependent on any one man, but that same fact makes it absolutely necessary to have a man of dignity, strength and wisdom at the head of affairs. Therefore the DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN wishes for the new Principal of Queen's a long and successful career.

The Theological Faculty of Queen's University is closely related to the Presbyterian Church and it is to be hoped that it will continue to receive cordial support. This year its classes are as large and vigorous as ever. All the Colleges are doing good work and need sympathy and support from the members of the Church. Each College has its own tone and contributes in its own way to the variety and strength of the life of our Church. The graduates of Queen's have, as a rule, displayed noble self-sacrifice in behalf of their College, and they will no doubt feel that the loss of the man who commanded their reverence and loyalty calls for new manifestation of interest in his work. The members of the Church generally would do well to remember that the educational institutions of the Presbyterian Church need and deserve generous support.

The H. M. Caldwell Co., Boston, publish their Berkeley Library, which now comprises over 160 volumes, in a new cloth binding, with a cover design by Iorio. To this select series of masterpieces of standard authors has been added, among other titles, "Ecclesiastes of Elia," by Charles Lamb; "Charles O'Malley," by Charles Lever; "Pendennis," by Wm. Thackeray; and "Past and Present," by Thomas Carlyle.

A POOR SYSTEM.

A minister in Toronto, who knows whereof he writes, in a note to the DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN, says:

The supply problem keeps cropping up, and every fresh instance reveals the folly of pursuing our present method of furnishing supply to vacant charges. Just on the outskirts of this city a charge became vacant some nine months ago. This charge is one of those where removals are frequent, and therefore there is all the greater need for an early settlement. Candidates have been heard, usually for one Sunday, and the congregation is no nearer settlement, apparently, than it was six months ago. We asked if the Presbytery had made any enquiries into the methods employed to supply the vacant pulpit, or had offered any suggestion or help to secure a minister, but could get no satisfactory answer. Meantime there is a problem being created in that congregation whose solving will break the heart of the man whom they may call, and make his first year of ministry, and perhaps some succeeding years, years of worry and unsatisfactory results. No one can blame the congregation, which is doing its best under the circumstances, but is it not possible for Presbyteries to come into closer and more sympathetic touch with vacant charges, and resolutely bar out interference on the part of any other body, so far as appointments are concerned?

This has been a vexed question for many years; and when grave and reverend Presbyteries, Synods and Assemblies have failed to find an adequate remedy it would be presumption in us to attempt a solution of the difficulty. But we can make a suggestion: Refer the question to a special committee consisting of Hon. Justice McLennan and Robt. Kilgour of Toronto; John Charlton, of Lyndocke and John Cameron, of London; Sir Sandford Fleming and J. R. Reid, Ottawa; Walter Paul, Wm. Drysdale and James Croll, Montreal; and Hon. Mr. Campbell, Winnipeg. We believe such a committee would soon solve the problem, and save the church from constant irritation, as well as positive loss.

Canada might grow more rapidly in wealth and commerce, no doubt, but all things considered, moral as well as material, perhaps it is moving rapidly enough. Before the children of to-day are old men and women the Dominion will be,—as our late missionary statesman, Dr. Robertson always predicted—a very populous and important country. At Toronto, last week, in a public address, Hon. Wm. Paterson was able to point out that the people of Canada do a foreign trade of \$35 50 per head, as compared with \$18 per head done by the people of the United States—a grand total of foreign trade for Canada's five-and-a-half millions of people of \$420,000,000. In material things, therefore, Canada is coming on very well. Let it be seen too that the higher things come on equally well. Now's the day and now's the hour to plant wide and far the outposts of the Gospel.

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