

The Dominion Presbyterian

IS PUBLISHED AT

323 FRANK ST., - OTTAWA

AND AT

MONTREAL AND WINNIPEG

Terms: One year (50 issues) in advance, \$1.50.

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Sample copies sent upon application.

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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,
P. O. Drawer 563, Ottawa.
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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20, 1908

We take pleasure in placing before our readers the clarion call of Rev. Mr. Gandier for "a larger church policy." His earnest words should have the effect of deepening the church's interest in Home and Foreign missions and inciting everyone to do more than ever before for the extension of Christ's Kingdom in the world. They should also lead to a better and more orderly system of raising money for carrying on mission work.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

Dr. Somerville says, under date 27th January, only four weeks and a half remain of the Church's financial year. As many congregational treasurers delay sending in contributions for schemes till within a few days of the close of the year, this makes it impossible to announce, with any exactness, the condition of the several funds until it is too late to be of service. If a supplemental contribution from every congregation and mission station could be given at the close of February and remitted to the treasurers East and West, to be apportioned to the various funds in which there were deficits, it would be a boon to the Church, and would enable committees to report a clean sheet to the General Assembly.

The following are the receipts to January 25th:

	1907.	1908.	Amount required for year.
Knox College	1,745	1,909	9,000
Home Mission	60,764	71,688	180,000
Augmentation	10,568	10,523	45,000
Foreign Mission	41,919	37,738	122,000
W. and O.	3,620	4,518	15,000
A. and I.	5,221	4,419	18,000
Assembly	1,877	1,894	5,000
French Evangelization	6,330	7,546	24,600
Pointe-aux-Trembles	4,880	5,990	19,000
Temperance and Moral Reform	—	—	208.25 5,000

MR. LEMIEUX AND JAPAN.

The interests of missions, alike with the interests of the British Empire, of Canada, and of the English-speaking world, are all more or less bound up with the recent successful mission of the Hon. Mr. Lemieux to Japan. The situation was a complicated one. Japan is Britain's ally, and it was not desirable that Canada, as part of the British Empire, should needlessly antagonize the vigorous young giant of the Orient. Yet it was impossible to overlook the dangers and difficulties which would necessarily grow up on Canada's Pacific coast were an overwhelming tide of Asiatics to overflow, first British Columbia, and then the rest of the Dominion. Britain naturally did not desire Japan's national susceptibilities to be stirred into explosion through Canadian action; and Canada, looking to a future of indefinite expansion of trade with the Orient, had substantial reasons for desiring to maintain cordial relations with the trans-Pacific countries. From the standpoint of the open door to missionary effort, also, it would have been a thousand pities had the anti-Japanese agitation in British Columbia raised a counter-barricade in Japan against the messengers of the Gospel.

What was clearly desirable, if it could be attained, was such an arrangement as would at once be consonant with Japan's national susceptibilities as a rising world Power; as would be not antagonistic to the principle of Britain's alliance with Japan; and which at the same time would prevent the influx into Canada of more Asiatics than could be safely admitted at one time into the body politic.

To accomplish all this, in the face of a considerable agitation, particularly in Canada's Province nearest to Japan, was a large order. It was a problem, the solution of which called for careful handling and diplomatic skill of no common order. It is gratifying to be able to state that Hon. Mr. Lemieux, as the envoy to Japan of the Dominion Government, has accomplished all we have outlined above as desirable. The Government of Japan has agreed to take efficient steps to restrict Japanese emigration to Canada. Contract emigration will be stopped altogether. The emigration of Japanese by way of Hawaii is to cease, and regulations to that end have been promulgated. Hon. Mr. Lemieux is to be congratulated on the great success of his mission to Tokio.

In this connection complimentary mention must also be made of the very able report on the former Japanese influx to British Columbia, from the pen of Mr. Mackenzie King, the capable Deputy Minister of Labor. This report has been well described as a State paper of unusual interest and importance.

The telephoto attachment has proved a splendid addition to the use of a camera. It was designed to enable the photographer to obtain magnified pictures of scenery and buildings at a considerable distance.

THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

By Knoxonian.

Once upon a time a group of visionary people, of a little sect we need not name, were seated upon a rock at one of our St. Lawrence watering places, engaged in conversation. A matter-of-fact theological professor chanced to pass near the rock on the way to his morning dip. One of the visionaries told him that they were conversing about the UNWRITTEN words of the Saviour, and asked him if he would join in the conversation. The matter-of-fact theologian modestly replied that he was quite well satisfied with the WRITTEN words, and always preferred THEM to the words that were UNWRITTEN and are now unknown. Conversing about unknown words must be a very unsatisfactory kind of exercise. It does no more for one's spiritual nature than was done for Ephraim by the diet that Hosea alludes to in the first clause of his twelfth chapter. The fact it is very much the same kind of diet. That kind of diet may do fairly well for the sect those visionaries referred to belonged to, but no Presbyterian ever thrives on it. It does not agree with the Presbyterian constitution.

Talking about unknown words, however, is not much more unsatisfactory than talking about unknown events that may occur in 1908. "Nobody knows what may happen this year," says one one fond of peering into the unknown future. Well, that is true as a mere proposition. It is also true that the probabilities in favor of certain things taking place are so great that for all practical purposes they amount to a certainty. There is nothing absolutely known about this new year, but the probabilities are a million to one that certain things will take place.

Your note falls due at the bank in thirty days. Now it is not an absolute certainty that the bank will try to collect that note. The probabilities are, however, a million to one that you will hear from the bank or its solicitor about that time. In fact the probabilities come so near an absolute certainty that you had better have the money ready.

The minister does not know any more about the future than any other man. Still every minister is reasonably certain that if his health does not break down he must prepare and preach between fifty and 100 sermons during the year. Things may occur that he now knows nothing about, but he may rest assured that when the clock strikes eleven on each Sabbath forenoon he will be expected to enter his pulpit with a new sermon or an old one touched up a little. In view of this fact it is much more sensible to get ready the sermons than to sentimentalize about the unknown quantities of the future.

A professor of theology does not know the future any more than a "mere pastor," but the probability in favor of his having to deliver a certain number of lectures is so great that for practical purposes it amounts to a certainty.

Even a student does not know the future. He does know, however, that, unless some very unusual changes take