

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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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

P. O. Drawer 563, Ottawa.

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Manager and Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 23, 1907

The "light affliction," is to many people, a heavy burden and a cross; to others it is an "eternal weight of glory." It all depends on the character of the one who is under the weight.

The Living Age for October 5 reprints from the London Outlook a very sane and suggestive article upon "Canada and Japan" which treats of the general question of the competition of Asiatic labor on the Pacific coast.

It is reported from Toronto that the Knox College students are happy in the anticipation of the early revival of the college dining-hall. It is understood that it will be managed by the students. This experiment will be a matter of interest to all undergraduates of the colleges. Student management of student affairs has been strongly advocated in Toronto. The system is said to work very satisfactorily at some other universities, and during the past couple of years many students of Toronto University have urged that the experiment be tried there.

We are indebted to Messrs. Notman & Son, the eminent Photographers of Montreal, for the group picture of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in Canada, held in Montreal last June. Taken separately and afterwards artistically arranged, the result is a picture giving truthful likenesses of the commissioners—Ministers and Elders—who attended the Assembly. Doubtless all the commissioners and many others will desire a copy. An arranged key accompanies the plate. Orders should be sent in early. Address, Messrs Notman & Son, Montreal. The size of the plate is 22x28 inches and the price per copy \$2.50.

A LESSENING FLOOD.

The Post Office Department of Canada reports that as a result of a new agreement as to the second class postal rates between Canada and the United States, which went into effect within the past twelve months, the flood of cheap American newspapers and magazines, used merely as advertising mediums, has practically ceased to pour into Canada. Until May last hundreds of tons of American newspapers and magazines of the cheaper and poorer class were carried weekly by the Canadian mails. Since the new rate of one cent for four ounces has been in force there is not one pound of this objectionable class of American mail matter coming into Canada for very thousand pounds that came in before. The congestion in the Canadian mail service caused by the handling of this immense mass of United States publications has been relieved, and the relations between the two countries in respect to revenue and expenditure on international mails are on a more equitable basis.

CONSIDER THE AFFLICTED.

Several of the Ontario Cabinet Ministers have been in Europe looking for pointers of improvement in connection with institutions for the care of the variously afflicted. Many of these afflicted ones need chiefly to be kept under kind restraint; but there are others who are capable of being cured, or at least of having their condition improved. For these, ample provision should be made for their recreation; for cheerful surroundings; for as much of God's out-of-doors as is practicable; and for their intellectual and moral development. It is a matter of great importance what sort of men and women are in charge, from the Superintendents down to the humblest supervisors and attendants. Those at the head of such institutions should be there not merely to enjoy well-paid jobs; but should be persons full of wise tact and of keen human interest and sympathy.

REV. DR. POTTS.

The death at Toronto of the Rev. Dr. John Potts is a loss not only to Canadian Methodism, but to the whole Christian Church. He had become in some sense an international figure, through his prominent position in the Sabbath School world and otherwise. Of commanding stature, with a resonant and persuasive voice, and strongly evangelical in sentiment, he held his large audiences with firm grip, and was as acceptable a preacher at 70 as he was at 30. When the question of Church Union first came up, Dr. Potts was rather shy of the movement, but he changed his view, and before his death expressed the hope that the Union would in due time be accomplished.

The net result is that more British publications now come into Canada, and fewer from the United States.

THE GENESIS OF CHURCHES.*

We welcome another book from the pen of our old friend, Mr. James Croil, of Montreal. In past years he gave us, among others, "The Missionary Problem," "The Noble Army of Martyrs," and "Steam Navigation," the latter, a most interesting volume of nearly 400 pages. Of his last work our author modestly says: "The writer of these pages does not aspire to enter the domain of church history. His endeavor has been only to ascertain as accurately as possible, the origin, and, in a general way, the progress, to a limited extent, of the churches and congregations herein dealt with." The illustrations are numerous and carefully selected. Of these it is said: "Most of the illustrations have been selected with a view to showing some of the best types of the various styles of architecture on the continent. A few of them, on the other hand, are deemed chiefly interesting from the historical associations with which some of the older churches are distinguished."

In his treatment of his subject, Mr. Croil is conspicuously fair, alike to Roman Catholics and Protestants. This might have been expected, as Dr. Campbell, moderator of the General Assembly, says in his discriminating introduction: "The Catholicity of the volume is one of its special charms. . . . No one could gather from the book that its author is a Presbyterian elder, and was for twenty years, editor of a denominational magazine."

"Genesis of Churches," will be read with interest. The book should have a large sale. To busy men it will prove a veritable mine of information, easily accessible, condensed, correct and carefully indexed; while its profuse illustrations, fine paper and beautiful printing, will make it an attractive volume for either the book-case or drawing-room table.

MARCH OF INVENTION.

Under the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy, it is now possible to communicate easily across the Atlantic. There seems to be no limit to discovery and invention; the marvels of the present age are but preludes to still more astonishing discoveries and inventions in the future, bringing the world closer and closer together. These discoveries are usually exploited first in the interests of Mammon, but are equally available for higher purposes. It is for those who deserve to be called the best people to employ them "in His name."

Sir John Macdonnell's summary of the gains and losses at The Hague Conference, which forms the leading article in The Living Age for October 5, is particularly timely just as the conference is concluding its rather futile labors. On the whole, Sir John's view is reassuring, though not very buoyant.

*The Genesis of the Churches in the United States, in New Foundland, and the Dominion of Canada, by James Croil 320 pp; 60 illustrations, Montreal; Foster Brown and Company, Publishers.