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The Rev. ROBERT V. MCKIBBIN, M.A., has been appointed Special Representative and Field Correspondent of THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN; and we commend him to the kind offices of ministers and members.

Ottawa, Wednesday, 31st Oct., 1900.

The publication of "The Winstalls of New York," the story written for THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN by Rev Joseph Hamilton, is commenced in this issue. It opens well, but the interest increases, chapter by chapter, until the finish.

We regret that inadvertently the excellent address to the newly licensed young preachers, at the close of the Summer Session in Manitoba College, was credited to Principal Patrick instead of Rev, J. Carswell, of Poplar Point. Such mistakes will occasionally happen in even the most carefully managed offices.

Is it altogether right that the Church should stand so far aloof from the present political contest? No one can go down into the arena of politics without becoming besmirched, yet it seems to us that the Christian Church should make her voice heard upon the great questions at issue. And her voice would be respected, if it were free from the tone of partisanship.

In Britain, in the United States, and in our own land there is a growing consciousness that the work of the Sabbath school has not been taken with sufficient seriousness by the church. There has been plenty of talk and plans in abundance, but the position of the Sabbath school as one of the prime factors in Christian work has only recently been established. It is felt that more attention must be given to the training of the young and hence that greater care must be given to the training of those who are to teach the young. Training schools for Sabbath schools are not new in the United States, and now the idea has crossed the ocean and taken root here. Montreal College announces the probable formation of teacher training classes, and the matter is about to be brought before Knox College. It has taken definite shape in both England and Scotland, and ere long we may expect that a definite place will be given in the theological curriculum to this most necessary department of the preparing of Christian workers.

TIEN WANTED.

The Superintendent of Missions in Algoma asks for two men for two charges in that District, and offers the annual salary of \$800. The men are jostling each other aside for the chance of preaching a day in charges in southern Ontario, but the northern fields go begging. But there is another side to this question of the scarcity of supply in the north. It is not one man in twenty that would be suitable for the work to be done there. The man who would fill a charge in Wentworth very acceptably, would fail miserably in Northern Algoma. Most men know their limitations and, while many of these would gladly settle in the mission field they know that it would be to its disadvantage and to their own, were they to accept an appointment there. So they do not offer themselves.

This does not hold true for the young man fresh from College. He is capable of adapting himself to circumstances, and can make headway where a man who has been ten years or more in the ministry would, even with the added experience, fail. And these are the men to whom we must look for the workers in that northern field. Will they respond? It will mean self-sacrifice, it may mean the breaking off of plans that have grown to be a part of everyday thinking for them, but if the call come decisively, we believe the men will be ready to respond to it.

Our attention has been called to a queer statement in "The Interior" in which there are nearly as many gross errors as lines. We quote:

"Mr. Robinson, of the "Dominion Presbyterian," Canada, as we have noticed, carries a knife for the Doctor. He picked up this statement, (that the membership of the Third church, Chicago—Dr. McCaughan's—had dropped from 2300 to 1100) enlarged it, and attributed the statistical reduction of thirteen years ago—the supposed falling off of 1,100 members, to the unpopularity of the Doctor in this year of grace 1900! "Where have they gone?" exclaimed the vengeful Dominion man. Some churches, imagining that the Doctor, under such circumstances, would be willing to consider a call, have been approaching him. The Doctor joins in the merriment at his expense—meantime the great Third is jammed with people."

We do not like to call our Chicago conferee a falsifier of the record, but certainly it would be difficult for the editor to string together more misstatements in a single short paragraph, if he tried for a year. Mr. Robinson does not carry "a knife" for Dr. McCaughan, or any other man; he never "picked up this statement," and of course could not enlarge upon it; never made any reference to the falling off in the membership of the Third; never attributed such falling off to the Doctor's "unpopularity"; and "the vengeful Dominion man" never exclaimed "Where have they gone?" What have we done to "The Interior" that we should be so wantonly misrepresented? Doubtless "the Doctor joins in the merriment," but it is altogether at "The Interior's" expense.

All costly decorations are of no avail if Jesus has not stood at the threshold, lifting His hands and saying, 'Peace be within this house.' And if He be there, no storm beating upon the roof, no bitter sorrow, not even the shadow of death, can take away its pleasurable warmth.—D. J. Burrell, D. D.

EDUCATION OR INFORMATION?

Some appalling statistics have been published recently indicating the ignorance of our boys and girls of the simplest facts of Bible history. The complex machinery of our Sabbath School system does not seem to be accomplishing what was done by the parents before the Sabbath school offered an easy method by shifting responsibility from parental shoulders. An effort is being made to secure the co-operation of parents in the study of the lesson, and in the preparation of the children for the Sabbath school.

In a single generation we have reached this stage, and even on the public platform and through the public press appeals are made to the parents to come to the assistance of the Sabbath School teacher in the scriptural education of the children. An old fashioned father and mother, who still believe that they are responsible for the religious training of their children, and who try to meet the responsibility to the best of their ability, listen in blank amazement to such appeals. A father, who refused to send his children to the Sabbath School because he wishes to keep their training in Bible truth in his own hands was called "peculiar." But nine-tenths of the parents listen to the appeal with perfect composure, and conclude they will do something to help if they get time.

But does this amazing ignorance of Bible truth go back one generation? Are the fathers and mothers of the present generation as ignorant as their children? Have they entirely forgotten the home training given them, and is that the meaning of the classes for Home Study that have been formed in other communions, and are being introduced in the Presbyterian homes? For the future, when those our children shall have grown to manhood and womanhood and the appeal is made to them to co-operate with the Sabbath School teacher, one can imagine the answer it will receive. The German master in the college might as well ask them to assist their children in the preparation of their German exercises. We may expect therefore, that the training of the young in Scripture truth will be left more and more in the hands of the Sabbath School teacher.

Evidently the Sabbath School teacher is not succeeding as an educationalist. The pupils pass a notoriously bad examination—do not secure ranking on easy papers. Nor is the cause of failure far to seek. The average teacher spends the hour supposed to be given to training the child-mind, to informing the boys and girls of the class of certain bits of Scripture history. Information is easily taken in and as easily slips away. A discussion of the relative merits of two aspirants for half-back on the foot-ball team will completely dispossess all information received from the Sabbath School teacher.

Merely giving information is not teaching neither in the Sabbath-School class room, nor in the College class room. Until the mind has received an impulse to investigate, either to vivify or to discuss, little has been really accomplished. The old fashioned learning by rote, which some would revive, kept truth in the mind till an application of it became necessary. That was other than the