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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

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J. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, Sept. 30 1903.

The doings of the Turk in Macedonia, in the way of massacres, and nameless brutalities, are not a good advertisement for Mohammedanism and its results. It is a pity the Powers could not combine either to turn the Turk out of Europe, or to compel him to desist from his barbarities.

Taking the years 1892 and 1902 into comparison, as regards exports of merchandise, Canada shows a larger percentage of increase than any other country in the world, namely, 103 per cent. Canada is steadily moving on to a great destiny, of which the foregoing is only one indication. The business foundations are being well laid. Let the same be said of the religious and moral foundations.

The plan of Study prepared by the Assembly's Y.P. Societies will embrace studies in the history, doctrine, polity and work of our own church. Six of the studies will be of a missionary character, and the other six will deal with history, doctrine and polity. The plan of Study has been approved more than once by the General Assembly and it has been commended also by Rev. F. E. Clarke, the 'father' of Christian Endeavor. It would certainly be an advantage if it were adopted by all the Y. P. Societies in the Church.

There are many things to indicate that the relations between capital and labor in Canada are becoming a good deal strained. Each side has now in operation an aggressive organization. Where the situation is not that of warfare, it is at best, a case of armed neutrality. In our judgment the selfish interests of neither side is to be entirely trusted. What the pulpit and the lay church member should inculcate is a spirit of moderation, with early resort to conciliation and arbitration.

CRITICISM AND FAITH.

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN does not feel itself called upon to advocate any particular set of opinions on those "critical" questions, on which there is much discussion and division among Christian scholars. In our columns, contributions appear from men of different shades of thought and we believe that in whatever way the debated question as to the date and structure of particular books of Scripture are settled, the Bible will continue to be, in a very real sense, "The Supreme Book." It must, however, be recognized, that men who started out with a firm belief in the Bible as the only infallible rule of faith and practice, have reached conclusions on many of these questions that many good men regard as "revolutionary." To refer to only one branch of the Presbyterian Church, in the Free Church of Scotland, not long ago a distinguished scholar was expelled from his chair for teaching these views, but recently one of his successors, who is on some points more "advanced," was allowed, after a keen debate, to continue in his professorial position. It is well known that similar opinions are taught in some of our own colleges in Canada. It will scarcely meet the case then, to talk as if men who have left the traditional views in these matters, are men who spend their time seeking for discrepancies and gloating over errors. General statements about "negative" and "destructive" critics do not carry us very far. Problems have been raised that must be settled by fair argument.

The pulpit is not the best place for such technical discussions and we have recently expressed the opinion that it is not wise for young ministers to startle people by introducing subjects which cannot be fully dealt with, and which, in some cases, they themselves do not fully grasp.

On the other side, we think that denunciations of criticism need more careful qualification than they often receive. It is evident that men of varied views will need to work together for the deepening of spiritual life and the extension of the Church.

The present is an extremely interesting time in British politics. The largest and finest politics in the world must be looked for in Great Britain. Several great topics compete for attention. The report of the War Commission on the conduct of the South African war unites the criticism of the nation, and will be discussed on every hustings. Thanks largely to the British Weekly, and the Passive Resistance Movement, the Education question among Nonconformists burns with apparently unquenchable flame. Labor questions loom up. Mr. Chamberlain's resignation has precipitated the greatest fiscal controversy of several generations. In Great Britain there are many able and studious men in public life, so that discussions on a high intellectual plane may be looked for. Momentous issues depend on the persuasive powers of the strong speakers and writers who at this moment are preparing their speeches and sharpening their pens.

THE COMMISSION ON QUEEN'S.

The Commission appointed by the General Assembly to consider the relation of Queen's University to the Presbyterian Church and to express an opinion as to its future, met at Kingston the 15th of September and has formulated a report which will be sent down for the consideration of Presbyteries. The Commission met with the Trustees and all sides of the situation were frankly and freely discussed; a satisfactory spirit pervaded the whole proceedings and there was a desire to find the solution of a difficult problem which would be the best for all parties concerned. It is recognised that while during the principalship of the late Dr. Grant the relationship to the Church was very real and vital, yet the affairs of the University were managed in a broad, catholic spirit, so that no one who knew anything about the question could call Queen's a sectarian institution. There is no desire to change this in any way that could rightly be described as "putting the clock back," yet if the relation to the Church is to continue, it must be revised and restated, and if the General Assembly is to use its influence for an increased endowment of the Arts faculty, it is only right that some of the Trustees should be directly nominated by the Assembly. On this, and some other points, the Presbyteries will be asked to give their opinion and we feel sure that they will feel called to give to such an important matter, the most careful consideration. The Theological Faculty will, of course, remain the same and may fairly expect as much, if not more, help than it has secured in the past. During the coming winter there will be time and opportunity to refer to various aspects of this question and we trust that the whole matter will receive the fullest discussion, as it is a crisis in the history of the University which ought to be faced in a bold, determined fashion.

The members of the Commission have clearly expressed their opinion that there should be no violent break with the past but that an institution which has grown to such power under the guidance of Presbyteries and the cordial co-operation of others, should remain in affiliation with the Church that gave it birth. A resolution of this kind commits the Church to action which must be taken at once. We are in full sympathy with the spirit of this resolution and hope that before long, the needed action will be started by the stimulus of trusted and powerful leaders. It is time now for some to speak who have been blessed with abundant means. In the past Queen's has been sustained by the unselfish efforts of many friends. That will, no doubt continue, but the present crisis demands a new effort of a somewhat heroic kind. Let those who dissent from the finding of the Commission express their view, but if there is an overwhelming majority on the side they indicate, let strong, loyal action come out of it.

As a farmer cannot plow without a team so neither can he get to heaven without faith.