

The Dominion Presbyterian

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No "Presbyterian" For Two Weeks.

Following the good example set by many journals published in Canada and the neighboring Union, there will be no issue of The Dominion Presbyterian on July 29th and August 5th. This intermission will give printers, proofreaders, compositors, correspondents and editors two weeks' respite from their exacting duties during the heated term. On the 12th of August, however, we hope again to meet our many readers with columns filled to overflowing; and thence forward with time-telling regularity.

July and August are months of relaxation. The enemy of souls is the only one that gets in a good day's work. The season just suits him and he is delighted to meet a Christian on his holiday. Some disappoint him by the vigor of their soul-life even in the summer resort, but some are just to his liking and he makes the most of his opportunity.

Remits to Presbyteries are somewhat numerous this year. We apprehend they will occupy very little of the time of these courts. It is coming to be pretty well understood that the voice of the Presbytery counts for little in the General Assembly. The scant courtesy given this year to the honest work of many Presbyteries has contributed very much to this conviction.

Dr. Cuyler will not be accused of lukewarmness to the Christian Endeavor movement and his well-known friendliness enables him to say what might seem like criticism in another. In the course of an interview with the representative of the Montreal Witness recently he spoke some wholesome words, which it would be of profit to the members of the Society to note. The question of the reporter evidently had reference to the prominence given to the Good Citizenship element during the last year. Dr. Cuyler reminded them that this will be a source of weakness rather than of strength if it can, in the most distant way be connected with partisanship politics. To keep it clear of this atmosphere will need careful management.

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The returned missionary speaks to deeply interested audiences. He is often less skilful as a public speaker than the minister whose pulpit he occupies, yet the minister spoke on missions to an indifferent audience. The fact that he was a returned missionary will not explain the interest in him. We are past the stage of the missionary curio. But he spoke of what he had seen, and of what he had done. There was a vividness and warmth about his sentences that was lacking in the more polished phrases of the minister. There was sometimes a certain uncouth reality about them that one liked, because it spoke of vitality. Is it not possible to cultivate this? Is it not possible for the minister who never saw China to so inform himself and to so transport himself as he is speaking, that he shall be, for the time, the returned missionary? The people will not listen while we discuss missions academically, but give them life and vividness and they will listen to purpose.

Unhealed.

It is a matter of surprise to discover many subjects upon which it is well to avoid discussion with a new friend. In the earlier stages of acquaintanceship courtesy drew a veil over the face when these topics were broached, and it is only now, when acquaintanceship has ripened into friendship, that we find it discreet to avoid an increasing number of points, in which we expected at least interest.

Some day, now far past it may be, a wound was given in the discussion of this topic, and it is open yet. We cannot work together, we cannot work at all at these points. I have mine, my friend has his, and our field of co-operation is very appreciably straightened by these sore points. Were we less self-centered, there is not a day upon which we could not unite in work that is impossible while we cherish these tender spots. Are they worth it? Is it after all of prime importance that I should be touchy on this point?

The Ministers and the Century Fund.

The success attending the launching of the Century Fund has been largely due to the perfecting of plans before they were announced. Many went to the Assembly more than doubting the wisdom of undertaking this scheme. As they listened to the masterly address with which the scheme was introduced, and heard their unspoken objections fully met, it was left by the most sceptical that the ground had been covered in all its details, and they cordially adopted what, perhaps they had resolved to oppose. Some have frankly acknowledged their conversion from tacit opposition to active promotion.

We hope that the first step that has been announced in carrying out the scheme has received as careful consideration. It has been announced that the minister must lead. That is right. But how shall he lead? It was announced that the ministers were expected to contribute \$109,000 towards the Fund. We hope they will do better than that, even financially. We have no hesitation in saying that they are doing more than that year by year, if it were possible and wise to determine what each minister contributes through his church Treasurer to Schemes of the Church.

But we believe that it will be a mistake to distinguish between the contribution of the minister and his congregation, or to make any announcement publicly of the amount contributed by the ministers as a class. We do not wish segregation, we seek combined effort and such an effort as shall make for unity. Let the minister be the first approached, let operations begin with him, but let it be with the object of enlisting him as an enthusiastic worker for the success of the movement. Make him a channel, but through him reach every one to whom he ministers.

It would be a mistake to form a crack corps of the very men who ought to officer the rank

and file. There will be greater work ahead of us when we have got through with the Century movement. To enter upon the greater work of which this is but the prelude we wish to have a Church so sensitive to spiritual impression that it shall quickly and surely interpret the will of its Head; and a Church so thoroughly one that, knowing the mind of the Master, it shall turn as one man to do it. We shall not do this by the segregation of classes. Let minister and people work together.

Encouraging Responses.

In connection with the Century Fund, launched by the Presbyterian Church, it was felt to be of the utmost importance that the hearty sympathy and co-operation of every minister of the Church should be secured. The importance of this was felt to such an extent by the Executive that, when they held their first meeting ten days ago, they resolved before proceeding further, to issue the circular which appeared in our last issue. A copy of this was mailed to every minister and missionary in the Church.

It is encouraging to know that although only a few days have elapsed since the circular was sent out, the following responses have already been received:

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| A College Professor | \$1,000 |
| Rev. Dr. Wardrope, Guelph | 150 |
| Rev. Dr. Laing, Dundas | 100 |
| Rev. Dr. M. Ramsay, Ottawa | 300 |
| Rev. John Wikie, Indore | 100 |
| Rev. John Chisholm, Denbairton | 100 |
| Rev. W. G. Wallace, Toronto | 100 |
| Rev. A. MacVicar, Huntsville | 70 |
| Rev. John MacFarlane, Pine River | 75 |
| Rev. John Paterson, Montreal | 100 |
| Rev. A. Gilray, Toronto | 300 |
| Rev. R. P. MacKay, Toronto | 200 |
| Rev. James Hamilton, Mimico | 25 |
| Rev. James Fitzpatrick, Underwood | 100 |
| Rev. Dr. McLeod, Barrie | 100 |
| Rev. Dr. Robertson, Toronto | 750 |
| Rev. Dr. "the Smith's Falls | 100 |
| Rev. John "Brussels, Ont. | 120 |
| Rev. Alex. McGillivray, Toronto | 200 |
| Rev. J. G. Shearer, Hamilton | 175 |
| Rev. Dr. Campbell, Renfrew | 500 |
| Rev. James Wilson, Lanark | 100 |
| W | 5,000 |
| | \$10,265 |

Should the responses to be received from the other ministers of the Church manifest the same interest and practical sympathy, the success of the scheme is assured, for there is no doubt that with the earnest co-operation of the ministers, and liberal personal contributions from all of them, the people will gladly and generously respond.

Many of the letters accompanying the subscriptions from ministers are most hearty and enthusiastic, although some of them indicate that a very large measure of self denial is being exercised so as to be able to contribute as they have done. For example, one minister, in intimating a large contribution, thus writes:—"I probably represent a considerable number of our ministers who are financially embarrassed through causes that need not be specified, hence the difficulty of responding to the appeal on behalf of the Century Fund as one would like, yet recognizing the importance of the movement, and trusting that the Lord will provide, I agree to the payment of one-tenth of my income (amount here given) within the specified time."

Ministers were asked to respond on or before the 15th of August. It is hoped that from every minister there will be a response to the circular prior to that date.

A Prominent Presbyterian.

The Globe of a recent date has the following brief notice of a well-known minister and publicist. Dr. Mackay is at present engaged on a book—soon to be published—entitled "Pioneers of Zorra," which is sure to have a large sale and greatly add to his fame as an author:—

Rev. William Alexander McKay, the new President of the Ontario branch of the Dominion Alliance, is the eldest son of John McKay, and