

The Dominion Presbyterian

is published at

323 FRANK ST. • OTTAWA
and at

Montreal and Winnipeg.

TERMS: One year (50 issues) in advance \$1.50
Six months75
CLUBS of Five, at same time..... 5.00

The date on the label shows to what time the paper is paid for. Notify the publisher at once of any mistake on label.

Paper is continued until an order is sent for discontinuance, and with it, payment of arrears.

When the address of your paper is to be changed, send the old as well as new address.

Sample copies sent upon application. Send all remittances by check, money order or postal note, made payable to The Dominion Presbyterian.

Advertising Rates.—15 cents per agate line each insertion, 14 lines to the inch, 1 1/2 inches to the column.

Letters should be addressed:

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN
P. O. Drawer 1070, Ottawa.
C. Blackett Robinson, Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1906.

We learn from a summary published by the Library Journal that Mr. Andrew Carnegie has given to his own and other countries more than \$40,000,000 for libraries. East Out

Henry Frowde is about to publish at The Oxford University Press a book of value to English authors. It is entitled "The King's English." It deals with questions of vocabulary, syntax, "airs and graces," punctuation, euphony, quotation, grammar, meaning, ambiguity, and style. Passages are cited from well-known authors and their errors in grammar, syntax, etc., pointed out.

For the moderatorship a number of nominations have been made, the names most prominently before the Church being Dr. DuVal of Winnipeg, Dr. Sommerville of Owen Sound and Dr. Falconer of Picton, N.S., the last named being mentioned by the largest number of Presbyteries will in all likelihood succeed Dr. Armstrong in the chair of the highest court of the Presbyterian Church.

In Alderman Armstrong's article on "Changes in Eleven Years," in last week's issue, a mistake occurs which demands correction. It will be noticed that among the departed leaders enumerated by the writer, Dr. Wm. Gregg's name is mentioned. We are glad to be able to say that the venerable octogenarian, so far from having passed to his reward, was at the last meeting of Toronto Presbytery appointed a commissioner to the General Assembly at London; and while there our worthy correspondent will have an opportunity of apologizing to Dr. Gregg in person for the error into which he was unwittingly betrayed.

The meeting of the W. F. M. S. at Winnipeg was in every way a great success. The attendance—over 500—was a record-breaker. Of the personnel of the convention The Free Press speaks in the highest terms. On this subject our Western contemporary writes: "They are women with diverse gifts, but with the common gift of eloquence which has been enhanced, perhaps engendered, by exercise of mind and tongue. From the initial address, given by Mrs. McEwen, a talented woman of the Western prairies known for her gracious ways and capacity to toil steadily and blithely to the eloquent and very able closing words of Mrs. McQueen, of Hamilton, there was manifested a spirit of gentleness, strength and charity, such as no church court ever excelled."

OBLIGATORY VOTING.

We are greatly gratified to observe the question of obligatory voting is coming into practical politics. We do not say "compulsory voting," because we do not think the phrase happy. There is nothing more of compulsion about this proposition than there is in compulsory jury duty, compulsory paying of debts, compulsory leaving park flowers alone, or compulsory avoidance of depositing your garbage on your neighbor's lot.

The great lesson to be taught the uninstructed and the venal, is the lesson that every qualified elector is a member and partner in the self-governing community; and that, therefore, the franchise is not a chattel to sell, but a duty to perform. That lesson can be powerfully promoted by making it legally obligatory on every qualified elector to cast his vote (except because of illness or other valid reason) or pain of the stigma of disfranchisement for a certain number of years following.

The bulk of the individual electoral corruption centres about what the expert workers term "getting out the vote." The cure for that is to lay upon each elector the duty of getting out his own vote.

RUSSIA EMERGING.

During the war between Japan and Russia, THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN, like other journals, drew on its stock of philosophy to forecast the course of events. We pointed out the outcome would probably be a severe defeat for Russia; but that it would in a sense be Russia's national salvation; that self-government could only come through an overwhelming humiliation, and the extreme pressure of circumstances. It has turned out as we predicted: A Russian Parliament is to-day in session! Crude, untamed and unsettled this first legislature naturally is, as might be expected, but we are bound to say there have been evinced already a moderation, a courage, and a parliamentary skill which give promise of helpful enactments and sane guidance of public opinion.

It is not always easy to discern the finger of Providence in dark dispensations; but if ever such discernment were clear, it looks to be so in the case and after results of the recent war. The autocracy of Russia needed a strong check; the whip of flagellation was Japan; the result, the rising of Japan (as an ally of Christian Britain) into a powerful international factor; and, quite as important, the dawn of legislative self-government in Russia.

Obedient to directions of the Synod, the following commissioners met on Thursday evening last in Knox church, Moose Creek: Rev. J. Hay, Renfrew, convener; Revs. Dr. Ramsay, Ottawa; Dr. Mowatt and Prof. Cruickshanks, Montreal, and Messrs. John R. Reid, Ottawa; and H. Montgomery, Morrisburg, elders. The only absentee was Rev. D. Currie, of Perth, who was unavoidably detained. Negotiations were continued unsuccessfully till midnight, when adjournment was had till Friday morning. Upon reassembling the gospel of peace was preached, with such good effect that a reconciliation was effected and an agreement signed, by virtue of which Dr. Watts was restored to church membership. This agreement was read to the congregation of Knox church last Sunday morning by Rev. A. A. Morrison, of Kirk Hill; and thus a question, which greatly troubled the local church, the Presbytery and Synod, has been effectually settled.

THE LIVING AGE of April 28 reprinted from The Nineteenth Century a striking but somewhat pessimistic article on "The Reading of the Modern Girl." THE LIVING AGE for May 19th contains a clever consideration of the other side of the question under the title "Do Our Girls Take an Interest in Literature?"

FAMILY RECONCILIATIONS.

An old grudge of twenty-one years' standing is likely to be just a bit difficult to handle, for it is not likely to improve with age, and especially if it be a family quarrel, the most difficult of all reconciliations to be accomplished. When true love turns, it knows no weapon too sharp or deadly. All former years of loving affection are forgotten, past favors are lost sight of, and all the eye sees and memory recalls is perhaps one single insignificant offence, and that, too, unintentional. Alas, how easily once loved ones are separated, how unkind and ungracious words are spoken, all because the devil is allowed to have full sway, and the more Christly nature is held in abeyance!

Thus, there was trouble in the house of Isaac and Rebekah which culminated in a general breaking up of a once happy home, a bitter estrangement of two brothers who had fed from the same breast, and for twenty-one years Jacob and Esau neither spoke together nor saw each other. Think of brothers not speaking together and yet Jacob and Esau were not the only ones who lived to regret the folly of their ways, for death has often come when it was too late to become reconciled. It is indeed, a pitiable sight to behold those who at one time were dearly devoted to each other become enemies, for neither the one nor the other is happy, and both suffer pain, and especially the transgressor. In fact, it takes two to quarrel, and if the one or the other will but keep quiet, the trouble will soon die away. It is better to purchase peace at a great price than to have war. Jacob could well afford to send presents to Esau, for he could no longer bear the thought of difference between him and his brother, and it is better to pay the price of humility, the price of taking the first step toward a reconciliation, than to be at enmity one with another.

Let the innocent take the first step, for it is easier for such to go to the enemy than for the enemy to go to the other. Besides, it is Christ's method, and also his command, for the nearest way to God is by the way of your enemy. If "you bring thy gift to the altar and there rememberest that thy enemy hath aught against thee, leave there thy gift and go first to thy enemy and be reconciled, and then come and offer thy gift." Sometimes God strikes a hard blow in order that he may bring about a reconciliation, just as when he smote Jacob in the thigh and he went forth limping, himself made humble and the heart of his brother Esau touched and softened at his brother's affliction, so that when they met, they met as friends, as brothers. Sometimes the blow of sickness, or of death enters the home, and thereby God brings about family reconciliation. Why wait until driven? Why not be at peace one with the other before God is compelled to strike the hard blow? Did more like Jacob of old get down on their knees and pray to God, there would be more happy meeting of enemies. Instead of advertising differences to an unsympathetic world, go and tell your troubles to Jesus, and ask him to help you, and peace will be assured. Be at peace one with another.

It is no use asking God to show us the way of life unless we start out in search of it.

Blessed is he that planneth and nurtureth a good thought. It will ever be a pleasant resting place for the children of his brain.

The Lord Jesus Christ would have us think of His salvation as a force within us that makes a man the master of things, the master of circumstances. Listen to the exultant boast of St. Paul, "In all these things I am more than conqueror in Him that loved me." That is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the finding of an authority that sets the man in his right position towards everything with which he has to do. —Mark Guy Pearse.