

## THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN.

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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN  
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C. Blackett Robinson, Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14, 1906.

Notwithstanding the Court mourning, it is understood the King will open parliament in person on Monday next, 14th inst.

We are still receiving subscriptions for the Dominion Presbyterian and Toronto Daily News, both for one year for \$1.50. The clubbing arrangement will terminate on the 28th of February.

Premier Whitney has secured an able official in appointing Mr. A. H. U. Colquhoun, B.A., Deputy Minister of Education for Ontario. Mr. Colquhoun is a graduate of McGill University, has had a large and varied experience in journalism, and will bring to the discharge of his new duties qualities which will go far to insure him a large measure of success in the important position he has been called to fill.

In another column is published an appeal from the convener of the F. M. committee. More money is required in order that the great interests served by this scheme of our church may not be crippled or hindered. We feel certain the appeal shall have prompt response. Presbyterians have been greatly prospered during the past year. There is plenty of money for all business engagements. Let it not be said that there is any lack where the Master's work is concerned.

Our enterprising contemporary, The World, of Vancouver, is carrying on a strenuous fight against the advertising of patent medicines. In a recent issue the following actual occurrence is reported as having taken place in a city drug store:

Customer—Bottle of Peruna, please.  
Druggist (handing out a bottle of the mixture)—Do you take this medicine yourself, sir?

Customer—Oh, no; it is for my wife.  
Druggist—I think it is my duty to inform you that it is nearly all alcohol, and a cheap grade of alcohol at that.

Customer (refully)—I know it, I've seen the analysis. But my wife will have it. She's got so into the habit of taking it that nothing will stop her. She's been taking it for the last six months, and now craves it. I've got to take this home or there'll be a scene. And she a total abstainer and a church-worker, too!

And, sighing deeply, the unfortunate man picked up the bottle and departed.

### IS IT ENOUGH?

It may be said there are plenty of churches open (at all events on Sundays) in cities of any considerable size and that it is the duty of people in general to enter these buildings. But in every considerable city there is an increasing number of persons, workmen and others, who do not attend any church. What is to be done about it? In a foreign mission field the principle is to go after the people; it is difficult to see why the active application of the same principle is not required as imperatively in so-called Christian lands. Christian churches are called on to be something other than mere social clubs with a religious flavor. If any section of a community will not seek the church, the church should seek them in some active and skillful manner. Speaking of a certain alienation growing up in cities as between the churches and the laboring classes, it is gratifying to notice the Presbyterians of the United States are not treating the question as unimportant. The Rev. Charles Steizie is meeting with great success as superintendent of the Department of Churches and Labor. Canada is growing big cities too. Let the General Assembly keep the subject in mind.

### SIGNING PETITIONS FOR LICENCES.

The Catholic Record, published by the Hon. Senator Coffey, at London, Ont., has recently been publishing a number of able articles against the traffic in intoxicating liquors. Speaking of those who sign petitions for the granting of liquor licenses, the "Record" speaks out as follows: "We are sure that in every city and hamlet the citizens, if so minded, can express their disapprobation of the liquor traffic in no unequivocal manner. They are not obliged, for instance, to sign liquor licenses. Why should they sanction a traffic that is, as we are told, ruining thousands of young men in Ontario? Why should they look with favor upon the establishment of a business that will be a menace to the health, happiness and morality of hundreds of their fellow-citizens. Why should they permit the saloon keeper, whose business is responsible for nine-tenths of the misery of the working classes, to prey upon the community? Why, if conscious of our duty towards our brethren, should we not bid that prospective dabbler in rum to earn his bread in manlike fashion? At all events, every citizen who wishes to see man and God honored, and every wife and mother who pales at the thought of son or husband bearing the brand of the drunkard, should never sign a liquor license.

The publishers, Revell & Company, announce a new edition of Dr. Torrey's book, "How to Promote and Conduct a Successful Revival," which will appear at an early day. He says he is more firmly than ever convinced of the truth of the statement found in one of the early pages of the book: "When any church can be brought to the place where they will recognize their need of the Holy Spirit, and take their eyes off from all men, and surrender absolutely to the Holy Spirit's control, and give themselves to much prayer for his outpouring, and present themselves as his agents, having stored the Word of God in their heads and hearts, and then look to the Holy Spirit to give it power as it falls from their lips, a mighty revival in the power of the Holy Ghost is inevitable." This is borne out by the history of revivals under Whitefield and the Wesleys, Finney, Moody and Dr. Torrey himself.

The annual report on the births, deaths and marriages in Scotland during 1903, just published, shows that the birth rate per 1,000 of the population was 251.50, being the smallest birth rate recorded since registration was made.

### VIEWS ON CHURCH UNION.

The movement to bring together the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches in this country is naturally being followed with marked interest by the religious press of the United States. "An extraordinary movement, in some respects not paralleled for several centuries," is the phrase by which the New Christian Advocate (Methodist) characterizes it. The Interior (Presbyterian, Chicago) speaks of the union planned as "the most radical and remarkable coalition of churches that has been proposed since the Reformation brought in the era of denominational divisions." Zion's Herald (Methodist, Boston) reminds its readers that Canada in the past has led the way in effecting denominational unions.

The Southern Presbyterian (Atlanta, Ga.) complains that the proposed basis for organic union "omits several precious documents." To quote:

"So far as we have caught its meaning, it omits plenary inspiration, leaves out all the virility of foreordination, ignores the representative covenant with Adam, omits particular election and particular redemption, and the preservation of the saints.

"As ecclesiastical paragraphs fail to distinctly exclude transubstantiation or consubstantiation. They speak not a word as to mode of baptism, leaving full room for the introduction of immersion. It provides for church government by 'elders,' but says nothing about ruling elders, so far as we see, and nothing about deacons."

The Presbyterian Banner (Pittsburg, Pa.) comments as follows: "We have been hearing from time to time of a programme of church union in Canada that seemed impracticable, judged by our possibilities, but the press announces that it is on the point of apparent consummation. . . . We would hardly think a union of these three churches possible in this country, but it appears to be possible only a few miles to the north of us, and it is the Lord's doing and marvelous in our eyes. The Spirit of the Lord, however, is not restricted by geographical boundaries and red and blue lines on the map, and what the Spirit can do there He may do here." And, to quote finally a journal which is second to none in influence and standing among the religious papers of the United States, the Outlook, of New York, says—and says truly—that "the pressure on the resources of all the churches in both men and women for the extension of their work in the great North-west of Canada" has been a strong factor in the movement toward union.

### THE HOME MISSION FUND.

The total home mission receipts up to the present time (8th Feb.) including the balance from the previous year, amount to \$98,637. There is still required the sum of \$41,363 if the committee is to be in a position to meet its liabilities at the close of the home mission year. Less than three weeks yet remain in which this large amount must be forthcoming, if the servants of the church in its vast home mission field are to receive in full the remuneration they have been promised and have so faithfully earned.

Nearly half of the present deficit would be provided for if the special contributors of \$250 each would forward at once the contributions they have agreed to make. Those of them who have not yet done so, and all congregations that have not yet sent in their annual contributions are urgently requested to send forward their offerings without delay.

E. D. McLAREN,  
Interim Convener.

Charles, son of Rev. Mr. Jenkins, Galashiels, has been left £1,000 by a lady member of his church.