

The Dominion Presbyterian

IS PUBLISHED AT

370 BANK STREET - OTTAWA

—AND AT—

Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg.

TERMS: One year (50 issues) in advance..... \$1.50
 Six months..... 75
 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 mis- take on label.

Paper is continued until an order is sent for discon- tinuance, and with it, payment of arrearsages. 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 regis- tered letter, made payable to THE DOMINION PRESBY- TERIAN.

ADVERTISING RATES.—15 cents per agate line each insertion, 14 lines to the inch, 14 inches to the column. Letters should be addressed:

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,
 P.O. Drawer 1070, Ottawa
 C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, April 9th, 1902.

Prohibition does sometimes prohibit—especially when the law has a strong force of public opinion behind it. The New York Witness publishes the following testimony from a man who has been a resident of Kansas, U. S., for nearly forty-seven years. "First year free whiskey—had no liquor laws. I saw twenty-five years under license laws and now twenty-one years under prohibition, and I do unhesitatingly declare it is one of the greatest blessings, socially, morally and financially, ever bestowed upon the people of Kansas. The restrictions set on the liquor traffic by prohibition are better enforced and more effective than the restrictions of any license system ever attempted." Wherever a substantial majority of the whole people determine to have prohibitory laws enforced they *can* be enforced.

Benjamin Kidd, in his new book on "The Principles of Western Civilization," says the Belfast Witness, makes an important point in speaking of the English-speaking portion of England and the United States as the most perfect representation of the economic process, and, indeed, of the evolution of modern civilization. He says—"It could not have been foretold in the midst of the European development that the insignificant section of European peoples who spoke English were about, in a brief period, to become a fourth of the white population of the earth, and to see nearly half the world pass under the direct influence of their laws and institutions." Mr. Kidd then proceeds to discover why and how the English-speaking people have reached this amazing power and prevalence. And his purpose is to show that it is only by the dominance of the moral and spiritual that our superiority can be deserved and maintained. Great Britain and her colonies and the United States will maintain that superiority so long as their people and rulers resolutely maintain, in their domestic economy and international relations that "righteousness which exalteth a nation."

LEADERSHIP.

The success or failure of any great cause, movement or work may be said to depend upon its leaders. The latest illustration we have of this is in the war in South Africa. Everyone knows how, at a critical moment, the whole aspect of things changed when Lord Roberts was sent out there to take charge of our armies. The history of political parties abundantly illustrates the same statement about leadership. We have examples of it in the present state of the liberal party in Britain, and of the conservative party in Canada. The origin and splendid progress of the Free Church of Scotland furnishes an illustration in ecclesiastical history. It is known to all how much the late happy union of the Free and United Presbyterian Churches of Scotland owes to the wise leadership of Rev. Dr. Rainy. Coming nearer home, we could hardly have a better demonstration, we might say, of the axiom we have set out with, than is furnished by our own Church in the rapid and solid advance of its Home Mission work under the wise, able and inspiring leadership of the late beloved and lamented superintendent of Home Missions, Dr. Robertson. We need not attempt to specify the qualities which are indispensable to make a man a leader of men. Suffice it to say that neither intellectual ability, nor the most ample knowledge, nor devoted zeal alone, nor all combined, will, of themselves, make a leader. These are all great helps, but some things more are needed before men will follow one who is set to lead: practical wisdom, for instance, tact in dealing with men, sympathy, patience, christian love, all the qualities in fact which command confidence in others.

This subject possesses the greatest interest for our Church at the present moment; for the question constantly before, not only those whose business it is to advise, but before the minds of all interested in our Church and country is, how is the great blank to be filled, made by Dr. Robertson's death? It is universally admitted that another his equal is not as yet, within sight, and yet the opportunities of our Church and country in the immediate future, it is evident to all, are momentous. The suggestion made by the Home Mission Committee, than which there is no single body in our Church more competent to judge, is to appoint three men to fill Dr. Robertson's place, so greatly did the work grow under his hands, and so rapidly is it likely to advance; one for the Synod of British Columbia, one for Manitoba and the Northwest, and one whose work will be the oversight to some extent of the work in the whole field, to keep it before the Church, and be a leader and guide in overtaking it. No more important matter, we venture to say, will come before the General Assembly than the selection of these three men. It will, under God, depend upon the men chosen, whether the rapid progress, and strong hold which our Church has taken in the whole West will be maintained, or fall behind. Was there ever a time when, for our Church and country there should be more earnest supplication made to God continually throughout its whole extent, that He would direct the Church in the choice of these three men.

Naturally, throughout the West, will interest and a sense of responsibility be deeply felt in the appointment of the best men for the work to be done. These already there have proved their interest in that part of the country, and in the work of our Church in it, by making choice of it as their field of labour. Their intimate knowledge of the work to be done, of the whole condition of the West, and of the prospects for the future, should be of the utmost value in guiding the choice of the Assembly. It may naturally be expected that it will be from among Western men who have had experience of the work, who know the people and the country, and have other requisite qualifications, that some at least and very possibly all the three men needed may be chosen. While the work of all three is very important, that of the one who is to keep the whole Church in close touch with the wide field of our Home Mission operations is especially important. It is not easy, it may be impossible to find a man of the statesman-like grasp, breadth of view, and long look into the future needs that Dr. Robertson had, equally absorbed in and passionately devoted to it as he was, a leader who inspired such universal love and confidence as he did; but if there be such an one, without partiality, without jealousy or envy, come he from the east or the west, let him be the chosen leader, for leadership is what the Church needs, and for success in this work, leadership is indispensable.

The Michigan Presbyterian publishes the following extract from a letter written by an Episcopal clergyman in 1848—more than half a century ago—to a young student for the ministry: "You will find that there is something in the atmosphere of a theological seminary, strange as it may seem, peculiarly dangerous to a living high-toned humble piety. Study, discussion, religious routine take too much the place of fervid devotion and practical holiness. Set yourself at the outset against this danger and begin with these resolute habits of personal piety, which in the end you will find so essential in the work of the ministry." The same remark in substance, many times since 1848, has been made of the atmosphere of theological colleges. Why should it be so? Let us hope that such colleges are the exception, not the rule.

The testimony of the late John Ruskin to the value of committing portions of scripture to the memory in childhood may well encourage parents to keep up this practice where it has begun, and where it has not to begin it straightway. "With this list of chapters which my mother gave me to commit to memory, thus learned, she established my soul in life. And truly though I have picked up the elements of a little further knowledge in mathematics and niterology and the like in after life, and owe not a little to the teaching of many people, this maternal installation of my mind in that property of chapters, I count very confidently the most precious, and on the whole, the one essential part of all my education."