

## The Dominion Presbyterian

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THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

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C. Blackett Robinson, Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, SEPT 5, 1906.

A Canadian exchange says: In this enlightened twentieth century—only the other day—a bishop, a leading educator, the holder of a university degree and a cultivated gentleman, with his wife, was turned out of a Pullman car and compelled to sit up all night because a passenger in the sleeper objected to sleeping beneath the same roof with him. The bishop's offence lay in the fact that he had a black skin!

Although now in its 74th year the *Perth Courier* shows no signs of weakness or decay. Indeed, quite the reverse. In all its life of nearly three-fourths of a century the paper, probably, was never better conducted than it is at the present time. It is carefully edited, well printed, and full of interesting local news. Only a few weeks ago a costly newspaper press and a new folding machine—both of the most approved style—were installed; so that the office is better equipped than ever before for giving effective service to its patrons. The enterprising publisher has our best wishes for his continued success.

The August Fortnightly Review (Leonard Scott Publication Co., New York) has a number of most interesting articles, including the following: "An Anglo-Russian Entente: Some Practical Considerations," by Victor E. Marsden; "Kant and the Buddha," by W. S. Lilly; "Charles Lever," by Lewis Melville; "The Higher Education of Working Men," by J. A. R. Marriott; "Dora Greenwell: Her Poems," by Dora Greenwell McChesney; "Pierre Corneille: A Domestic Enigma," by Maurice Gerotwohl; and "John Stuart Mill," by Francis Gribble. A poem, "The Question," by Dora Sigerson Shorter, is most attractive.

Rev. H. B. Price, of the English Presbyterian mission, writes from China, "There was never such an opportunity as is now presented for the spread of the Gospel in China. There is an insatiable demand for the new education. Mission schools are overflowing and their graduates are in demand in all directions. The people are beginning to distrust their idols. Idolatry is beginning to crumble, and the people are reaching out after something better than the old superstitions. The door is opening wide for the preaching of the Gospel, and our missionaries have access everywhere. Aristocratic families are taking missionaries on a social footing with themselves."

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### STRONG WORDS AND TRUE.

William J. Bryan, a sturdy Presbyterian elder in the United States, has been making an important speech at New York on his return from a long trip in Europe. The first part of his address was a powerful plea for peace and arbitration among the nations of the earth, in place of the arbitrament of the sword. In this day of increasing armaments, such sentiments from a man who may shortly be President of the United States, is of the highest importance. He was equally emphatic on the huge monopolistic trusts which have done so much to cripple individualism and menace liberty. There is the ring of sincerity as well as eloquence in the closing words of his address: "The time is ripe, for the overthrow of the trust. Let us attack it boldly, making our appeal to the awakened conscience of the nation in the name of the counting room which it has defiled, in the name of business honor which it has sullied, in the name of the people whom it has despoiled, and in the name of religion upon which it has placed the stigma of hypocrisy."

### COMIC SUPPLEMENTS.

We trust some of the Toronto newspapers have read the "Atlantic Monthly" for August, on the so-called comic supplements which form part of the Sunday papers of the large cities of the United States. The "Atlantic" says the comic newspaper supplement "seems as if driven by a perverse cynical intention to prove the American sense of humor a thing of national shame and degradation." The so-called comic cartoons include a confusing medley of impossible countrymen, mules, goats, German-Americans and their irreverent progeny, specialized children with a genius for annoying their elders, white-whiskered elders with a genius for playing practical jokes on their grand-children, policemen, Chinamen, Irishmen, negroes, inhuman conceptions of the genus tramp, boy inventors whose inventions invariably end in causing somebody to be mirthfully spattered with paint, or joyously torn to pieces by machinery, bright boys with a talent for deceit, laziness, or cruelty, and even the beasts of the jungle dehumanized to the point of practical joking. We do not know whether or not some of the Toronto papers in their Saturday supplements are copying from United States papers, but what they are publishing on the so-called comic cartoon line is idiotic beyond expression and an affront to even the most infantile intelligence.

"The Preparation of Manuscripts for the Printer" will be found useful to everyone who has even a pamphlet to print; but to one who aspires to the authorship of a book, it is indispensable, as it will save time, temper and money. The practical suggestions given on submitting manuscripts for publication are alone worth more than the price of the book. Frank and Wagnalls Company, New York; cloth, 12 mo; net, 75c.

### THE NEEDS OF THE SECULAR.

"Rests by the River,"\* is the title of the last book written by Dr. George Matheson, of Edinburgh, with whose previously published work our readers are familiar. In the preface we are told: "Religious sentiment, if it is worth anything, must be preceded by religious perception. Accordingly, I have divided each of these pieces into two parts—the first containing a thought and the second either an invocation or a prayer. This is the age of brevity, and I have tried to put intensity in the place of extension. The appeals are to various moods of mind; if some of them should find their way into hearts that have been unconsciously waiting for their message, the aim of this book will have been abundantly achieved."

We reproduce here the short chapter on "The Needs of the Secular" as a fair sample of these delightful devotional meditations:

"Come over into Macedonia and help us." It is the cry of Greece to Judea—the appeal of the secular to the sacred. Greece had every secular possession the heart can name—beauty, philosophy, art, culture, gaiety. Judea had at this moment at all; she had only Christ. Yet rich Greece called for the help of poor Judea! It is no passing picture, no evanescent experience; it is an eternal truth. The secular world can not live without the help of Christ. I do not mean the familiar truism that the things of earth are perishable. I mean that the perishable things of earth themselves require the aid of something beyond them; time cries to eternity, "Come over and help us!" No man can fulfil the duties of the hour by the light of the hour; it is always by a coming light. The school boy works for his prize, the clerk for his promotion. Nothing of value is stimulated by the mere sense of the moment. Not even charity is so stimulated. My benevolence for anything is proportionate to my idea of its longevity. Rome had no hospitals for incurables, no infirmaries for lives useless to the State. Why have we such institutions? It is because we think of these people as possible members of a future state. Our charity has been born of our faith and our hope. Why do we not follow the Roman in eliminating deformed infants? Because we have more pity? Nay, I think the Roman was prompted by pity. We refuse to follow, not because we feel more deeply, but because we see more clearly. We have caught sight of another chance for the deformed infant—a chance which his misfortune will not impair. We have seen that he too is worth training, worth educating, worth moulding—that there is a place waiting for him in a republic even larger than that of Rome.

Come over, and help us, O Christ! Come over, and help that life which we call secular! Come over, and help our charities; teach us the eternal value of our brother's body and soul! Come over, and help our pleasures; give us that self-forgetfulness which imparts zest to every joy! Come over, and help our business; Thy peace can preserve from panic in counting-house and exchange! Come over, and help our manners; Thy grace can make us gracious, the brightness of Thy face can brighten ours! Come over, and help our sense of the beautiful; let us read Thy soul in all things; and all things will be twice lovely! Come over, and

\*Rests by the River; Devotional Meditations, by Rev. George Matheson, D. D. LL.D., formerly minister of the parish of St. Bernard's, Edinburgh. Toronto: Upper Canada Tract Society. Cloth, crown 8vo., 365 pp; \$1.50 net.