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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,

Manager and Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11, 1908

At the W.C.T.U. convention last week at Barrie, it was stated that exclusive of the Anglican, only thirteen churches in Ontario used fermented wine, and that during the year three Anglican churches had given up its use.

The German Emperor is a standing specimen of the dangers of self-inflation. When a man of his type is a practically irresponsible ruler, his whims and prejudices and sudden impulses become as dangerous as were once those of the King of Ashantee.

Toronto is to take a vote at the January municipal elections on the question of license reduction in particular, and incidentally on the more general question, shall the saloons control the Municipal Council? It will be a bonnie fight, well worth watching in its progress and results.

Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, M.D., C.M.G., whose work among fishermen on the Labrador coast is so well known throughout the world that it has been referred to as the greatest example of individual self-sacrifice of the age, arrived at St. John, N.B., on Wednesday of last week, and the same evening addressed a large meeting in Trinity church. Dr. Grenfell is starting on a six-months' tour of Canada and the States in the interest of the work. While in St. John he received news of the drowning of Captain Roberts of the schooner Lorna Doone, and was much affected. It was the first fatality in connection with the mission.

To do justice, a man must think well not only of himself, but of the duties which he owes to others!

QUEEN'S AND THE CHURCH.

As we stated in a recent issue, the trustees of Queen's University have decided by a large majority to renew the application to the assembly for the proposed changes in the constitution. They ask for the removal of "Denominational Disabilities," or, in other words, that the legal constitution may be so changed as to allow the university to receive help from outside sources.

There are two points that come immediately into consideration. First, the principalship must be thrown open; and, second, the clause which demands that the majority of the trustees must be Presbyterians will have to be abrogated. These changes, of course, carry with them other changes which will affect the relation of the theological faculty to the university. The relation of the faculty to the Church will remain as before; it will draw its students from the Presbyterian body and will be dependent on the Church for a certain amount of support. It is hoped that the new constitution can be so drawn that the theological faculty may be kept in intimate relation with the university.

Thus the changes proposed need not involve separation in any absolute sense. It is true that so far as the university is concerned the Assembly will be free both from the power of control and responsibility for maintenance, but as a matter of fact neither of these have been regarded very seriously for many years past. While we cannot deny that this movement may be called a movement for separation, yet we maintain that the changes are more in the nature of an attempt to make the legal constitution correspond to the actual fact than to effect a startling revolution. At present the majority of students, professors, and trustees belong to the Presbyterian Church, this is not likely to change suddenly, in fact it may take a very long time to make any real change. There is no reason why Presbyterians should take less interest in the university because of the proposed modifications in the constitution. The university will be doing the same work as before, but we trust on a larger scale and in a more effective manner.

Presbyterians have always and everywhere taken an interest in higher education, but they do not claim to possess a monopoly of the civic and social virtues, they are willing to co-operate with their fellow citizens in any great undertaking, and most of them think that a large institution like Queen's needs and deserves very general support. It is well to remember that in the past strong support has been given by the city of Kingston, indirectly by the local government, and by individual citizens in different parts of the country. We do not say this to belittle the work of Presbyterians, which has been of the greatest importance, but simply to bring into view all the facts of the case. We are convinced that a great many who have subscribed to the present endowment fund, have done so in no narrow sectarian spirit, and what they really desire is the success of the university in the largest sense. By passing their resolution at the present time the trustees have given ample space for careful consideration before the next meeting of the Assembly; and we feel sure that the discussion will be carried on in a generous, kindly spirit.

THE SHEFFIELD CHOIR.

Toronto, the musical metropolis of Canada, has been soaring up to high "C" in company with the famous Sheffield Choir. This noted organization owes its being and success to the love of choral music apparently inherent in the English, to the large amount of imitative singing instruction going on all the time among the masses of the English people, and above all to the discovery of a genius of musical organization in the leader of the choir, Dr. Coward. As has been remarked, the two hundred individuals comprising the choir, ceased to exist as units when Dr. Coward raised his baton; they became integral parts of one magnificent musical instrument. This art of getting a large body of singers to enunciate like one voice, is one of the rarest of things imaginable. Think of the choruses you have heard in churches, and how seldom you have been able clearly to make out the words! The same criticism applies to the majority of church solo singers. The Sheffield Choir shows Canadian church choir masters and choirs what to aim at in clear enunciation and in the dramatic taking possession of the emotions of an audience.

The principle of self-government in all parts of the British Empire moves on apace. And now India is coming to its own in the respect named. On the fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of Queen Victoria as Empress of India, King Edward has issued a long message to the princes and peoples of India. The message dwells upon the peaceful progress of the empire under a beneficent administration, pays warm tribute to the loyalty of the Indian subjects and troops, announces amnesty for prisoners, and a further gradual extension of the principle of representative institutions in the direction of equality in citizenship and a greater share by the Indians in legislation and government. In many ways, in these latter days, the East and the West are coming together, each to influence the other. "Oh the East is but the West, with the sun a little hotter."

The Baptists of Canada have been attempting to form a union for the whole Dominion, with Toronto as headquarters. Progress was made at the recent meeting in Ottawa, and the union may be consummated next year. The Baptists in every part of the world are an excellent people, for whom we have nothing but good wishes. There are those who think the Baptists cranks on immersion and some other things; but we are all cranks in the eyes of somebody or other.

William J. Bryan did not get elected President of the United States, but he fought a good fight. He has in him large measures of influence for the future benefit of his fellow-countrymen. Few men stand more deservedly high in the esteem of the best people of the English-speaking world.

In living your life do not become so absorbed in the quality of the vase that you miss the perfume of the flower.