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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, Mar. 4 1903.

THE COMING INRUSH.

The recent prediction of THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN, that the rush of settlers into Canada would, this year, exceed all previous records, seems now more certain of realization than ever. The inrush from the United States does not promise abatement, while the interest in the Canadian Northwest in England has reached a phenomenal stage. What is best of all, this influx of people is composed of the right stuff—from the north-western parts of the United States, not the mere "raw material" of citizenship, but the "manufactured article"; while from Great Britain—mother of free institutions, rightly so called—are coming this year—thousands on thousands of people of the very sort to prove foundation stones of political stability and material and social prosperity. Nineteen hundred and three is going to be a great year for Canada! In our Great Northwest, and in degree not less in New Ontario, lies before the Church a field of opportunity and of duty almost illimitable in extent and importance. For many reasons, the psychological moment—or year—in which the General Assembly should meet in the Canadian Great West, is 1903.

Senator Wark, of Fredericton, N. B., entered his hundredth year a few days ago. He is in good health, is the oldest legislator in the British Dominions, and will doubtless be at his post when parliament meets next week. The fact may also be noted that he is a staunch Presbyterian and supports liberally the mission and other schemes of his Church.

It is worthy of note that George E. McNeill, the New England labor leader, is a friend of Sabbath observance. As the Presbyterian Standard says: "When organized labor takes up the fight for the Sabbath, the cause will be won. 'Six days shalt thou labor' also means, six days only needest thou labor. In their own material as well as moral interests the workmen of Canada should stand unitedly in favor of Sabbath observance."

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN THE MODERATOR.

In June the Assembly will meet in the far West, and its first duty will be to choose a new presiding officer. This is important not simply because of the Moderator's position in the chair during the actual meeting; but also because the president of our Supreme Court represents the Church throughout the whole year succeeding the time of his election. We can not tell who will be elected; but some general idea may be formed from present circumstances. The gentleman who now holds this high position belongs to the West and although the matter is not settled by mere geography, it seems natural to suppose that when the Assembly meets in the West, an act of courtesy will be shown to one of the wise men who come from the East. Further, the present Moderator is a college man and the one who preceded him was a general officer; so it seems likely that the office will this year fall to a pastor. The pastoral office is as important as any other; and the men who through long years have faithfully ministered to important congregations and made their influence felt within and outside their own Church, are worthy of all honour. That such names as those of Dr. Thompson, of Sarnia, Dr. Milligan, of Toronto, Dr. Armstrong, of Ottawa, and Dr. Fletcher, of Hamilton, have been mentioned in various quarters, shows that there is no lack of good men even for this position. When there is room at the top there will be a suitable man to rise to the position, and to do credit to the Church in that which will be to him a new situation.

A MISTAKE.

The Globe of Wednesday, Feb. 18th., informs us that Mr. W. R. Newell, who has been conducting a popular Bible class, in Toronto, made on the previous evening, a slashing attack on the Higher Criticism. We are glad to hear of a large Bible class anywhere, as it shows some real popular interest in the Sacred Scriptures; but we are convinced that a mistake is made when the leader departs from a method that is positive and constructive to one that is violently controversial. THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN, by its reports of Dr. Milligan's Sunday evening lectures, has enabled its readers to see how a man of faith and real insight handles the ancient records in the light of results gained by the historical method. These results are not final or infallible; but in the meantime we can see how they are appropriated and appreciated by a man whose faith is as real and living as that of Mr. Newell's. We are not called upon to champion the opinions of any particular school of interpretation but we question whether extreme statements, such as those recorded in the Globe, can do much good to the cause advocated by the speaker: certainly the Bible does not need that kind of defence.

"Incidentally he declared that President W. R. Harper, of Chicago University, is doing more in the service of infidelity than any other man in America—more than ever Ingersoll did." Incidentally or directly to slander a Christian scholar is not, we submit,

a good way to defend the Bible. At an early date we hope to point out what President Harper and his colleagues are doing to lift the teaching of the Bible to a higher plane.

Mr. Newell speaks patronisingly of "the lower criticism," which was itself at one time the object of suspicion, but the "higher criticism" he cannot bear. "This whole higher criticism business is of the devil" he exclaimed, and the large Toronto audience was certainly either very ignorant or very tolerant for "the people sat quietly thinking about some venerable ministers and theological professors in Toronto who say that unquestionably the method of the higher criticism is right." It is not likely, however, that the great body of intelligent people will accept Mr. Newell as an infallible judge; they will either be stimulated to study the matter for themselves or will quietly hope that the case is not quite so bad. "He warned his hearers that the churches and colleges and pulpits are being honeycombed with infidelity; that infidelity has taken its seat on the throne of Christendom and that only the second coming of Christ or a great revival will save the Churches." It ought not to need another coming of Christ to teach us a more tolerant spirit in dealing with legitimate diversities of opinion; and any revival worth having must come through devout study and earnest prayer, and not by will declamation and denunciation.

"PROPHETIC IDEAS AND IDEALS."

Dr. Jordan's recent work, with the above title, has been well received on both sides of the Atlantic. From a long review in the Glasgow Herald, we make the following extracts: "The book is evidently the ripe fruit of long and loving study of the Hebrew Prophets. What strikes us as the strong point of these 'popular expositions' is the success with which the eternal truth, the message for our time and all times, is found by considering faithfully how the Prophets met the needs of their own age. 'Instead of this discovery limiting the prophecy and making it appear antiquated, it frees it for larger service, and reveals its permanent power. The thing that is antiquated is the thing that is utterly unintelligible, that has no known relations to your life, or to any life that you know. The prophet, therefore, resembles other great poets and teachers in this, that we may enter into the large field of his thought through the narrow gateway of his local circumstances. Because he spoke so appropriately to his own age, we must study that age if we are to understand him; because he spoke so powerfully to his own time he may really minister to us' (pp. 235-6). These words describe the method of the book. The writer is not only a careful student, but a man of keen sympathies and imaginative insight. In his pages the past comes to life again, we feel the throb of passion, of love, of hope, of righteous indignation. It is a real, living world of men and women of like passions with ourselves. And to that world the Hebrew Prophets declared 'a truth so vital that when we pierce behind the drapery and find its real meaning we gain an eternal principle applicable to all time.' The book contains twenty-nine separate studies, and each one while it lights up the past, has also a direct application to the problems and needs of to-day."