

# The Presbyterian

## A MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS RECORD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE LAY ASSOCIATION.

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### CHURCH IN SCOTLAND.

#### THE ENDOWMENT SCHEME.

The August number of *The Home and Foreign Record* contains a long and able Report of the proceedings of the Committee entrusted with the management of this important Scheme. In a recent number we presented a statement of its Financial position, and we now deem it a duty to lay before our readers a few extracts from the masterly Report of the Committee. They state that during the year they had constantly in view the causing of the object of the Scheme to be clearly understood by the people at large. Of the necessity of the work they entertained no doubt, for alarming social evils existed in their midst. The Church was called upon to attempt to mitigate these evils, and the means used must be grounded upon the fundamental truths of the everlasting Gospel. The Committee then draw a hopeful picture of the Church labouring to build up old waste places, in the hope that the blessing of the Most High would rest upon her, and convert the flinty rocks and dry wildernesses of the land into running streams.

—In reference, again, to the remedial measures, the adoption of which your Committee have thought it their duty to press upon the friends and members of the Church, they believed, and they still believe, that those measures are immovably grounded on the fundamental truths of the everlasting Gospel. What other means of Reclaiming the moral wastes of the land have they ever propounded, than that of a thorough Religious education,—in which the human spirit shall be made to feel, as well as understand, that the Gospel of Christ provides a free pardon for its guilt; the fulness of grace for its wants; and

for its weakness the strength of the Lord God Almighty Himself—to be followed up by a corresponding ministry of unswerving faithfulness, and untiring assiduity? To doubt the efficacy of such means would be, in the opinion of your Committee, to doubt the faithfulness of God to His promises; nay, to call in question the direct and immediate testimony by which, in thousands, and tens of thousands of instances, the Holy Spirit has thus sealed those promises in the human heart by the translation of sinners from darkness into light, from death into the power of an endless life. While of the deep, and even radical corruption of our common nature, they are entirely convinced; with those, nevertheless, who despair of that nature in the mass, when subjected, in conformity with its fundamental laws, to the faithful appliances of the Gospel of Truth, they do not hesitate to declare, in the most unqualified terms, that they have no sympathy whatsoever. It is their firm belief, on the contrary, from the perfect adaptation of the Divine Word to the condition of humanity,—from the witness which it must, consequently, find for itself in every human conscience to which it is faithfully applied—and, particularly, from the fact that, as so applied, it must ever be accompanied by a testimony from on high, which to accept is life, and to reject is *conscious* death,—that its exceeding great and precious promises wait but the requisite fidelity, on the part of the Church of Christ, to be fulfilled in all the fulness of Divine grace and truth. Every promise of Scripture is also prophecy; and in every prophecy is involved a fundamental principle of the Divine government, which, to all who believe, makes sure the enjoyment of the predicted blessing. In God the Church is not, and she never can be straitened. If straitened at all, she must be straitened in herself; and her straits, whatever they may be, will disappear as the dews of the morning before the ascending sun, if she be only effectually stirred up to apply herself to the *work* of God in humble reliance on the *strength* of God. Let the Church, as a Church,—each of her members labouring diligently in his appropriate sphere of duty, and all co-operating harmoniously for the common welfare, but devote herself to such a ministry as is depicted, for example, in the Epistles of Paul, and promise will become fact, faith will be realized in vision,

and the glowing predictions of ancient prophecy will be converted into yet more glowing and glorious realities. The times are, indeed, in God's hands; but it will be a token for good,—a sure pledge that a day of merciful visitation is about to dawn on the Church of our Fathers, when to all her members their spiritually destitute brethren shall become the objects of a common care, and when all shall be found labouring together in prayer, by contributions of their substance, and by active personal exertions to convert those brethren, now dead in trespasses and sins, into *lively stones, to be built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.* The kingdom of God cometh not with observation, nor in any other way inconsistent with the essential character of our moral and spiritual being; it uniformly discovers itself, on the contrary, in the spirit of power and of love, and of a sound mind, given to His people, by which they are enabled, in holy and filial confidence, to *build the old waste places, and to raise up the foundations of many generations.* Where the Divine Word, however powerless it may appear to be in the mere letter, has once called forth this spirit in its professing disciples, it will avail as heard from their lips, not less now than in former days of the right hand of the Most High, to convert the flinty rock into a running stream, and the dry and parched wilderness into a land of fountains and springs of water. Fervently cherishing the conviction, that it is on the Word of God thus applied, that the Church builds her hopes of success in the great work in which she is now engaged; and that it is her fixed purpose, in humble dependence on the Divine assistance and blessing, to take, in the prosecution of that work, the same Word as the light of her feet, and the lamp of her paths, your Committee would contemplate without dismay even the most formidable opposition that could be offered to its accomplishment. Whatever form such opposition might assume,—whether that of disparaging reflections thrown out against the Church herself, or the more malignant type of an anti-Christian philosophy,—it is not their opinion merely, but their fixed and unalterable conviction, that the Church, as grasping firmly, and wielding with a resolute hand the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, must eventually come