

THE Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

OCTOBER, 1865.

THE PRESBYTERIAN WORLD.

FAR be it from us to say, or to imagine for a moment, that the Church of Christ is only co-extensive with the Presbyterian Church, and that Christ has no true fold but ours. Thanks be to God, He has His people in all lands and under many different names, witnessing the power of the gospel and faithfully following the Shepherd wherever they see his footsteps. But we are fully persuaded that the christian system is held in greatest purity and simplicity in the Presbyterian Church, and that no branch of that great and far-spreading body is more scriptural in its creed than our own. Cherishing thankfully the truths committed to our keeping, acknowledging the grace of God in the great light He has shed upon our path, let us above all things endeavour to live up to our light, and reduce to practice the truths which we hold in theory. It is a pitiful thing to have light and not to use it; to hold the truth unprofitably and in unrighteousness.

In another part of this *Record* will be found the statistics of our church for the past year. It may be interesting to the reader to get some idea of the statistics of Presbyterianism as a whole, throughout the world. We cannot, of course, give the exact figures, but we can approximate to the true state of the case. The number of Presbyterian ministers in the United States is about *eight thousand*; in the British Provinces *five hundred*; in Great Britain, *three thousand*; in Ireland *eight hundred*; in Aus-

tralia, New Zealand, &c., *three hundred*; in the continent of Europe, *two thousand five hundred*,—making a grand total of more than *fifteen thousand*. We are persuaded that our estimate is rather below than above the actual number. The number of church members is probably about two millions, and the numbers of adherents, say, thirteen millions. This last item is but a rude guess, and it may be a million wide of the mark.

Of one thing we may be sure, that never were there so many Presbyterian ministers and churches, and people, in the world before, and never were there among them better signs of health and vigorous action. There has been a much needed revival of orthodoxy in the Presbyterian churches of France, Holland and Switzerland; the church in various parts of Austria has awakened as from a sleep of centuries; the British churches are striving after greater union among themselves, and a more extended influence upon the masses of their countrymen. Union movements are characteristic of all the Presbyterian Churches at the present day. We see manifestations of the same spirit; not in Britain only, but in America and Australia. We take this spirit of union among brethren as a token for good from the great Head of the church. The world will perceive more fully the mission and work of Christ when His disciples all become one.

Reader! you are a Presbyterian; you hold (as you think) the purest creed; you live under the most scriptural system.