

THE

# Home and Foreign Record.

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

DECEMBER, 1873.

## HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD FOR 1874.

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## THE PROSPECTS OF OUR CHURCH.

Our prospects are decidedly brighter than they were a few months ago. At the meeting of Synod we were discouraged by hearing much of vacancies actual and prospective, and by hearing little of any available

supply. In this strait we remembered the prayer, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth labourers into His harvest;" and while we were yet praying, we were answered. About that very time the Colonial Committee were receiving offers of service from several men, and they accepted three, and these three are now all at work in our field. A fourth has come to us, of his own motion, from Scotland; and we expect a fifth—one of our own young men who has studied in Edinburgh—early in the new year. Though we have vacancies still, we can breathe freely, and while our prayers have been answered, our previous lack of faith has been rebuked.

"The Synod thought not only of present needs, but of the future. And in view of the great want of Divinity students, it asked kirk-sessions to appoint a special day of prayer to God, as well as for special appeal to the people, and requested the moderator to prepare a pastoral address on the subject. Is it too bold for us to say that already we see the fruits of this? The fact at any rate is that while we have few students studying Divinity—only three or four between the Colleges in Scotland and Canada, we never had so many in the Arts Classes—especially in the first three years of the course—who have the ministry in view, besides others whose names have come to our knowledge, who have commenced to prepare themselves for entering College with a similar intention. There are now in Dalhousie College from twelve to sixteen young men who hope to be in the ministry of our Church, and this fact alone is enough to make us say that our prospects are cheering, beyond what they have ever been before.

"Such a fact does indeed impose on the Church the grave consideration of the question, "where are all these to study Divinity?" In the past our young men have studied at Queen's, Princeton, or in Scotland. What have been the results, we may now