

THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD.



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"Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and the strength of salvation."

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Notice.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

The next ordinary meeting of the Presbytery of Toronto will be held in the Library of Knox's College, Toronto, on the first Wednesday of March, prox.; at 12 o'clock, noon.

Poetry.

The following extract is taken from a poem of some four hundred and fifty lines, entitled "Britain's West Indian Emancipation," written by a young man of colour, who deploras the wrongs of his kindred and countrymen; and deeply sympathizes with that noble act of Britain which forms the subject of his poem. It is highly creditable to one who has enjoyed so few of the advantages of education, and who draws from resources which are limited to no race, but which are diffused through the hearts of all kindreds and classes alike.

We have given the lines according to the man-

uscript, with little alteration beyond the orthography. It is to be hoped that the author may be led so to cultivate his talents, and to turn them into such a channel as will, by the Divine blessing, make him an instrument of good to his race, in leading many from the thralldom and slavery of sin to Him who makes his people free.

The poem opens with a glowing description of the "West Indian Isles"—their beauty—fertility—"perpetual verdure"—"delicious fruits"—"fragrant flowers" and "multifarious products," and where

"— Man from ocean's briny plain inhales Salubrious breath, conveyed by balmy gales, Yet all the choicest blessings nought availed These Isles, but deepest wretchedness bewailed. While hideous slavery rear'd her hydra head, And vice and misery o'er the Islands spread, The sons of Africa, from their native place Were rudely sever'd by the paler race.

From country, home, and friends and kindred torn,

Were forced away, and to those Islands borne; And there by cruel men compelled to toil, And till, unrecompensed, a stranger's soil.

There masters, thro' caprice or spleen, at will, Their helpless victims torture, maim or kill. Thus the poor slaves, in blood and toil and pain, The wretched remnant of their lives retain;

While scenes and joys they hopelessly bemoan, In their dear, distant, native country known;

And relatives and friends in vain deplore— Torn from their loved embrace on Africa's shore. What rendered more insufferable their grief, They knew no sacred source of sweet relief.

In the benighted land from whence they came, They ne'er had heard the blest Redeemer's name. They knew not Him who with compassionate breast,

Said, "Come ye laden'd souls, I'll give you rest." They vainly hoped that when they were no more, Their spirits sought again their native shore—

Impatiently they drew unwilling breath, And wished and sought relief in welcome death. Ah, hapless beings!—whose unhappy doom

Was on those Isles to issue from the womb: More wretched they, perhaps, in bondage born, Than those who were by force from Africa torn;

For while familiar, with each sort of woe, Their brethren from afar were doomed to know, No pleasing memory, their grief allays,

With sad yet pleasant thoughts of pleasant days, They from their births to their uncoffin'd graves, Expected, knew no state but that of slaves— No dreams of home and pleasures far away. Elysian slumbers gave for toilsome day"

SYNOD'S HOME MISSION.

COLLECTION ON SABBATH THE 17TH FEBRUARY.

The Collection, by appointment of Synod, on behalf of the Synod's Home Mission Fund, will be made on Sabbath, the 17th February.

The following Statement is submitted by appointment of the Committee:—

STATEMENT.

The questions have sometimes been asked—What is the province of the Synod's Home Mission Committee? Wherein does it differ from the Committees of the Presbyteries? And what are the grounds on which a call is made for a special collection for its funds, in addition to the efforts of the congregations to supply the destitution within the bounds of their own Presbytery? We deem it proper in making an appeal to the Church for a collection to replenish our exhausted treasury, to furnish an answer to these enquiries.

1st. We beg leave to state that this Committee does not interfere with the functions of the Presbytery, whose duty it is to ascertain the amount of destitution within its own bounds, to allocate the Missionaries placed at its disposal, to direct their operations, and to make provision for their support as far as practicable. The province of the Synod's Home Committee, is to ascertain the amount of destitution within the bounds of the several Presbyteries, in order to make an equitable distribution of the missionaries at the disposal of the Church, according to the wants of each locality. Had we a super-abundance of missionary labourers, or even as many as supply all the wants of our vacant stations, it might in that case be left to Presbyteries and to missionaries themselves, to make their own arrangements, the Church being assured that no portion of the field committed to her care, would be left destitute. But this is far from being the case. Each Presbytery impressed with a sense of its own wants, is naturally desirous of obtaining a full supply of missionary labourers, and were it not for the powers entrusted to this committee, the greatest number of missionaries and the most efficient, would not always be found where the greatest amount of destitution existed. Some of the Presbyteries who could induce the missionaries to come within their bounds might be fully supplied, while others with a greater amount of destitution, might be left without any missionary.

2nd. While each Presbytery has the charge of its own local affairs, the general interests of the missions within the bounds of the Church, have been intrusted to the care of the Synod's Committee. It pertains to them to furnish the means, as far as they are able, whereby our missionary operations may be most efficiently conducted, by