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CONTENTS.

	Page		Page
Stone Church at Bangkok, Formosa.....	225	III. The Demarara Mission.....	239
The Water of Life, by Rev. Dr. Burns.....	228	IV. Missions to the Indians in the North-West.....	239
Editorial Correspondence—Florence.....	227	V. Mission to Formosa.....	241
Judas Iscariot, the Traitor.....	230	VI. Mission to Central India.....	243
Household Words.....	232	Chart of Foreign Missions.....	247
International Sabbath School Lessons.....	234	Our own Church.....	248
Report on our Foreign Missions.....	236	Ordinations, Calls, Demissions, &c.....	248
I. The New Hebrides Mission.....	237	Manitoba College.....	249
II. The Trinidad Mission.....	238	Acknowledgments.....	250

The Water of Life.

THE following extract from a sermon preached by Dr. Burns, Moderator of the General Assembly, in Knox Church, Toronto, on a recent Sabbath, is in every way so opportune and suitable, we take the liberty of appropriating it by way of preface to this issue of the *Record*, which is devoted chiefly to our Foreign Mission work:—

“Lord Lawrence declared when in the zenith of his fame, that ‘Missions have done more to benefit India than all other agencies combined.’ We are leading the waters of life into the wilderness and solitary place. They flow into the recesses of the forest and along the rolling prairies. They flow from ocean to ocean. Our Church’s mission is to see to it that no check be put to the on-flowing of these waters; that they may permeate all parts of our large and great Dominion, and percolate through all the strata of our varied society—toward the former sea and toward the hinder sea. Who will venture to say of this river that makes glad the city of our God, ‘Thus far shalt thou go and no farther?’ Rather let us shout:—

‘Waft, waft, ye winds His story,
And you ye waters roll,
Till like a sea of glory,
It spreads from Pole to Pole.’

Our fourth and last point on which our time will admit of my speaking with the utmost brevity, is the

DURATION OF THIS FLOW;

“In summer and in winter shall it be.’ Summer’s sun will not dry up, nor winter’s frost bind these waters. They follow us like the desert stream God’s Israel of old, ‘Sometimes this stream has forsaken one channel but it has sought out another; and some times it has been like streams which sink underground and flow for a time in the subterranean course, but it again bursts forth like them and pursues its way with as much purity and strength as ever.’ The sun has risen with a burning heat—the scorching sun of persecution—as during the ten persecutions of the Roman Empire, but these waters still flowed on, and so when Rome Papal kindled her hateful fires, so, too, when the love of many has waxed cold, when a freezing moderatism has made the Church’s heart like a stone, God has never left Himself without a witness. These waters have still flowed on, though with diminished volume and velocity. Nor could Paganism,