

THE CANADIAN United Presbyterian Magazine.

VOL. VII.]

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1860.

[No. 8.

Miscellaneous Articles.

MISSIONARY ADDRESS.

DELIVERED BEFORE THE SYNOD IN 1860. SUBJECT: "PAUL AS A MISSIONARY."

BY THE REV. STEPHEN BALMER, DETROIT.

Moderator, Fathers, and Brethren,—It is at the request of the Mission Committee that I appear before you this evening, and not by any choice of my own, because, to me it seems abnormal for the younger to address the elder. The Secretary of that Committee, in corresponding with me on the matter, just gave me two directions, first, my theme, and second, the time allowed for the address—half an hour and not more. This latter suggestion I shall adhere to faithfully, and shall float along on my subject for that time—to exhaust it is impossible. It is this: Paul as a Missionary.

Now at first sight this seems one of the easiest of themes, but the very lights which burn around it are so numerous and brilliant that they dazzle and bewilder the timid beholder. The first narrative telling us of the man is short and simple; it can be read in an hour or two, but the many commentaries and testimonies and declamations, and books written on the subject, are spread over *whole acres* of reading matter, or typography, as a living author would say. In treating of such a theme as this, what pupil can help, without greatest difficulty, borrowing largely from his teacher—a very Hero in the eyes of all who have sat at his feet,—I mean the Author of "Paul the Preacher!"—not to mention dozens of other greater and lesser lights which cast their rays on the life of the Tentmaker. I do not, however, tread knowingly in the footprints of any one, not that I could not acquire profit, but out of respect to the intelligent body who now listen to me. Besides the mere drudgery of collecting