

Canada for a statistical account of each of the counties of the province. This unpretending essay was afterwards expanded into the neat little volume, published by B. Dawson & Son in 1861, "Dundas; a Sketch of Canadian History, and more particularly of the County of Dundas," which at once established the reputation of the author as a concise and vigorous writer who displayed a painstaking accuracy in historical statements.

Having long taken an interest in the affairs of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, being an elder of the congregation of Osnabruck, and frequently a member of the Presbytery of Glengary, he was asked, in 1865, to undertake the agency of the Church, at a critical period in its history, with a view to visiting all the congregations in the Synod and stirring them up to a larger measure of liberality in maintaining the Gospel at home and abroad. Having retired from farming, and being in easy circumstances, loving his Church with great ardor, and being endowed with gifts of speech that were specially suited for such an undertaking, he was prevailed upon to accept the call to this work, into which he entered with great enthusiasm, and for which he refused to accept any compensation. His pointed, practical addresses went straight to the mark, and many a sleepy congregation was aroused to attempt, and to do, greater things than they had before dreamed of.

The result of his toilsome labors in this visitation of the Churches, which occupied about fifteen months, was thrown into the shape of a statistical report submitted to the Synod in 1867. It was afterwards published, and has preserved a great deal of valuable information regarding the early planting of Presbyterianism in the inland provinces.

In the autumn of the same year he was appointed, in succession to his brother William, Secretary-Treasurer to the Temporalities Board, an office he continues to fill.

*The Presbyterian* had been published by "The Lay Association of Montreal," in the interests of the Church of Scotland in Canada, from 1848 to the end of 1871. At this date Mr. Douglas Brimmer, who had for several years edited the monthly, removed to Ottawa, and *The Presbyterian* became the recognized official organ of "the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland," and Mr. Croil accepted the responsible position of its editor, a position which he filled with marked ability up to the end of 1875.

At the Union in that year the several magazines, hitherto conducted in the interests of their respective Churches, were merged into one, to be called **THE PRESBYTERIAN RECORD**, and Mr. Croil was appointed by the General Assembly managing editor, with, shortly afterward, Mr.

Robert Murray, of Halifax, N. S., as associate. How he has discharged his functions as such, the General Assembly, from year to year has testified, and all our readers know. His affection for the Church was deep and strong, and every undertaking of the General Assembly was heartily advocated. His sympathy with missions led to the preparation of a series of editorial articles, which were afterwards collected and published in a small volume under the title of "The Missionary Problem." We trust that the long familiar pages will yet receive an occasional visit from his facile pen.

Meantime we are sure that all our readers will join us in following him with hearty good wishes into his well-earned retirement, hoping that he may be spared for years to come to serve the Church, to which his best energies have been so long devoted.

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Life is full of greetings and good-byes. The former gladsome, the latter tinged with sadness.

In the last issue of the **RECORD**, Mr. Croil gave his valedictory to its many thousand readers. Many of them have read that farewell with a full heart. It has called up associations of other days, when, with loved ones now gone, they gathered on a Sabbath evening and read from his pen, and this parting seems almost like a fresh sundering of something that belongs to those tender memories. Added to this there is the saying of "good-bye" to an old friend, the giving up of the tried for the untried, the known for the unknown.

To him also, while a relief from work, it must have been a heavy task to sever the close and friendly relations that for sixteen years have been gathering strength; and the sadness would be tinged with a deeper shade by the thought that the three score years and ten, which have led him to take this step, admonish him that life's valedictory must soon be ready for the press.

But the Christian's horizon is not bounded by parting shadow. Behind and beyond it, irradiating its cloudy fringe with a golden light, is the blessed assurance that after that valedictory, "there remaineth a rest"—not of burdening years and failing powers, but painless, sinless, joyous, eternal.

Turning from the parting to the greeting, which the one appointed to take Mr. Croil's place now gives to these same readers, it can scarce be said to have in it much of gladness, for it is but the introduction of a stranger to most of them, who has but the right to expect the courtesy of a stranger's welcome. One favor, however, he asks, that they will bear patiently with his comparative inexperience and its consequent imperfections, and scan his work with a kindly eye, and he will do what he can, from month to month, to make the **RECORD** serve its end.