

THE
PRESBYTERIAN RECORD
 FOR THE
DOMINION OF CANADA.

VOL. VIII.

SEPTEMBER, 1883.

No. 9

CONTENTS.

The Sabbath School	226	Obituary	239
Martin Luther	228	Ecclesiastical News.....	239
Temperance; Rev. R. Wallace.....	229	Report on State of Religion (<i>concluded</i>).....	242
Father Chiniquy	230	Our Foreign Missions.....	244
International Sabbath-school Lessons	231	Oxford College, Formosa, by Dr. Mackay.....	245
Our Own Church	233	Literature.....	247
Meetings of Presbyteries	234	Official Notices.....	247
Sarnia to Calgary, by Rev. Dr. Cochrane	235	Page for the Young.....	249
Edmonton, N. W. T., by Rev. A. B. Baird.....	237		

The Sabbath-School.

THE REPORT of the General Assembly's committee on Sabbath-schools is based on the Synodical reports; the Synods derive their information from Presbyteries who look to Kirk-sessions; the fountain head is of course the several schools the superintendents of which are responsible for the facts and figures. Wherever the fault lies, it is clear there is a screw loose somewhere, else it would not be necessary so often to ask "that Presbyteries be enjoined to see that returns are received from all Sabbath-schools within their bounds." It appears from the last report that there are a large number of non-reporting schools; the consequence being that the general report to the Assembly is imperfect and unsatisfactory. It is impossible to find out from it how many schools, scholars or teachers we have connected with the Church. In regard to Bible-classes, teachers meetings, and Normal classes the report is almost silent. Nor can we tell what amount is given for missions from all our Sabbath-schools. A summary, indeed, of the statistics furnished to the convener is appended to the report, but it is utterly mis-leading. It makes the whole number of scholars 65,715, while there must be very nearly if not quite double that number. It would seem as if the responsibility must rest either with the Moderator of the

Kirk-session, or with the Superintendent of the Sabbath-school. The Sabbath-school is too important an arm of the service to be thus mis-represented. It would be far better to have no report at all on Sabbath-schools than so imperfect a one as this. One can gather more information respecting Sabbath-schools and Bible-classes and missionary collections from the incidental allusions made to them in the reports of the Committees on Statistics and the State of Religion. There ought to be enough *esprit de corps* among our Sabbath-schools to prevent a recurrence of such complaints. Passing to the other recommendations contained in the report, we trust that Presbyteries will profit by the hint to devote "at least one sederunt in the year to the consideration of Sabbath-school work within its bounds." Some of the Presbyteries have for long been exemplary in this matter—notably the Presbytery of Guelph. The Presbytery of Glengarry held two Sabbath-school conferences during the year and the experience of the brethren there is,—“that the benefits have been many—direct and apparent—more thorough organization, more enthusiasm and consecration on the part of teachers, an awakening of interests on the part of sessions, better equipment in the way of papers and teachers' and scholars' help, and a more general recognition of the Sabbath-school as an integral part of the congregation.” The recommendation that Presbyteries be instructed “to use diligence to ascertain how many children of Sabbath-school age within their bounds, belonging to the Church, are not under Sabbath-school instructions,” receives point from the startling fact stated in the report of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, “that there are nearly *ten thousand* children