

# THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD,

For the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

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

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## THE CRUCIFIXION.

"Others He saved, Himself He cannot save!"

How little deemed those proud insulting foes  
What cheering words of heavenly truth were these,  
Which they with bitter taunts and mockery gave  
To that most patient sufferer on the cross—  
Precious beyond all language is the thought  
That He by offering up Himself has wrought  
Our help—His death becomes our life, our gain  
His loss.

Thus what His enemies in scorn proclaim  
Is now the brightest glory of His name  
Redeemer! who didst groan upon the tree,  
To save our guilty souls from long despair,  
Let not that anguish unavailing be,  
Save us from sin—make 'Thou our souls Thy care.

## MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

The Collection for the above object—the fourth and last for the Synodical year—is appointed to be taken up on the third Sabbath in April.

## PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

Congregations and Mission Stations desiring supply from the Presbytery, will please make application by the beginning of April, stating the number of members and adherents, and the average Sabbath attendance on public worship; and also the contribution that may be expected to be made for defraying the expenses, at the several stations respectively.

Next ordinary meeting will be held in Knox's College, on the first Wednesday of March, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

## LETTER FROM THE STUDENTS OF THE FREE CHURCH COLLEGE, HALIFAX, TO THE STUDENTS OF KNOX'S COLLEGE, TORONTO.

FREE CHURCH COLLEGE, HALIFAX, N. S.,  
January 3, 1853.

DEAR BROTHERS,—

Your letter of the 31st March did not arrive until after the close of last Session, and consequently was not formally laid before the Association until the students had again assembled for this Session.

We were truly delighted to hear again from you, and were much pleased to find that the discontinuance of our correspondence had arisen from no neglect on your part. We were also much cheered by the accounts which you were enabled to give of the growing prosperity of your College, and especially of the zeal and energy of your students in the Missionary cause.

Although, on our part, there has been much to humble us, and much to cause us to feel that our help is not in ourselves, yet we have much reason to say, "He that is mighty hath done great things for us." When we compare the present state of our Church and College, with what they were but a few years ago, we have reason to believe that God is building up our Zion. The number of our ministers is gradually increasing. Three of those who finished their course in our College, are now in the field. One is stationed at the straits of Canso, in Cape Breton, another has been licensed this last summer, and the other is still on probationary trials.

The number attending College this session, is twenty-two. Of these thirteen are students of Divinity; seven for the second year, and six for the first. The College building is also completed, finely situated on the north end of the city, and is a neat and commodious building. On this College, the Church's hope for her future supply of ministers must mainly depend, and our prayer is, that they who may be instructed there, may drink deeply of that wisdom which cometh down from above, in order that they may be qualified for the awful responsibility of labouring as ministers of the Cross, in the vineyard of the Lord.

It was with deep emotion we read of the unceasing applications from the Red River Settlement to the parent Church, for one to break among them the bread of life; and it was with feelings of much interest that we marked the steadfastness with which they adhered to the Church of their fathers, amid so many difficulties and disappointments. Many must have been the alternations of hope and fear that they experienced, during the twenty years in which the Church did not find herself in circumstances to grant them their request. How little did they imagine on their first application to the parent Church, that their first supply was to come from a quarter so near themselves. And it is gratifying to learn that your Association was the first to take their cause into right earnest consideration, and that you succeeded in drawing the attention of the Church in Canada so far to them, as to lead to the appointment of the Rev. Mr. Black to that remote and destitute locality.

But while your efforts had been thus directed towards those who were connected with our own Church, we rejoice to know that you, at the same time, were not unmindful of those who are led away by the delusive errors of the Man of Sin. It is indeed with alarm that all the true followers of the Lamb should watch the movements of that apostate church. Her votaries are animated with a zeal worthy of a better cause, and the skill and dexterity which they manifest in attaining their object, evidence her as the very master-piece of Satanic cunning. On the continent of Europe, especially; there are too many indications of the fearful success which has attended their efforts.

Despotism seems again disposed to unite itself with Popery, for the suppression of everything that is not peculiarly the doctrine of the Romish Church. What farther proof is needed than her proceedings, but a year ago, in reference to Missionaries of the Free Church in Hungary, and the manner in which the Madrai are at present persecuted in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany.— And while we would take comfort from the belief that it is not by strength nor by might, that this horrid system of cruelty is to be brought to nought, but by the Spirit of the Lord, we must, nevertheless, remember that God always honors his own word in the conversion of souls; and that when it is taught in its native purity and simplicity, its fruits will be found to be righteousness and peace.

Your success in the French Canadian Mission is encouraging to yourselves, and should stimulate all others to the high and holy undertaking, of spreading the light of the Gospel among deluded Roman Catholics. But above all; dear brethren, how important is it to keep the flame of religion alive in our own souls. Is it impossible that during a College course, when under faithful and beloved teachers, the mind may be expanding by the information and instruction received, the heart may all the while remain unmoved with love to God? And even in the grand subjects of Theology, how frequently does it happen, that the only effect produced is admiration and wonder, at the wisdom and benevolence therein made known.

The principle of love to a crucified Saviour may not be strengthened in the heart even when the grand doctrines of our religion are the direct themes of contemplation. Hence the necessity of bringing our wants frequently to the throne of grace. The ordinary labours connected with our Missionary Association, are by no means lost to ourselves in this respect. When others may be found benefited by our labours, there is ordinarily a reflex influence on ourselves. These labours are principally confined to the destitute portions of our city, and to a settlement of coloured people in our vicinity. They are generally conducted in the form of prayer meetings, superintended by the students, and under the control of the Association.

The Association meets weekly; two succeeding evenings are devoted to the reading of essays on subjects connected with Missions, which have been prescribed on the previous session. Every third evening is spent in hearing missionary in-