

The Record.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1859.

COLLECTION FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Collection for Foreign Mission purposes will be taken up, by appointment of Synod, on the third Sabbath of January. It is hoped that due notice will be given by all Ministers and Missionaries, and that the collection will be a liberal one.

When the Synod appointed this collection, the Mission in India, commenced by this Church, had been, in the providence of God, brought to a close; and the appointment was made, with the understanding, that, if we were enabled to originate another Mission, the proceeds of the general collection would of course be appropriated for that object, and that, if we had no such Mission to support, the proceeds of the collection should be divided among the Churches in Scotland, England, and Ireland with which we maintain fraternal relations.

As will be seen from the announcement, which follows, the attention of the Foreign Mission Committee has been directed to Vancouver's Island and British Columbia, and it has been resolved, to send out, if the Lord will, two Missionaries to that region, to minister to the adherents of the Presbyterian Church who may be already there, and to endeavour also, ultimately, to originate a Mission among the aborigines of the country. It is believed that such a Mission will commend itself to the approval of the members of our Church generally. All accounts testify to the very great importance of these western settlements. Other Churches have already moved in this matter, and we trust that the collection now to be taken up will be so general, and so liberal in amount, as to encourage these who may be appointed to go out as Missionaries to the interesting region referred to.

FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE

This Committee held a meeting at Montreal on the 9th Dec.

After conference on the duty of the Church towards the settlements on Vancouver's Island and British Columbia, it was resolved to send, if the Lord will, two Missionaries thither, to gather together the Presbyterians, and such others, as may be found willing to receive the Word; with the ulterior view of conjoining with this, an effort to christianize the Pagan Aborigines in those regions. It was also agreed to call to this work, two of the young Ministers of the Church: whose names will be published, so soon as their acceptance of the appointment is signified to the Convener.

For the support of the Mission it was resolved, to take the responsibility of directing towards this object, the General Collection on the 3d Sabbath of January, in accordance with an understanding come to at last Synod,

that if the Committee were prepared to go on with a Mission, they should obtain the collection, by making intimation in the Record. Further, it was agreed to take from the existing funds so much as may be needed for outfit and passage of Missionaries; the funds now in the Treasury not to be permanently transferred to the maintenance of the Mission now projected, without the authority of the ensuing Synod.

[Since the meeting was held, it has been so ascertained, that there will be no difficulty in obtaining missionaries for the important enterprise proposed, with, it is believed, the approval of all parts of the Church, that the Collection may be directed, as above indicated, with the utmost confidence.]

D. FRASER, Convener.

A NEW YEAR—THOUGHTS FOR THE SEASON

In the good providence of God we have reached the close of another year and the commencement of a new one. Every day,—yea every hour,—every moment marks a new stage in our progress towards eternity. But the termination of one year, and the commencement of another may be regarded as forming a more prominent way-mark in our journey, a more impressive moment of the brevity and uncertainty of life. While then we should as rational creatures, and especially as professing Christians, habitually exercise ourselves in numbering our days, and applying ourselves to heavenly wisdom, it is peculiarly our duty to improve such a season as the present, by reflecting on the past, and looking forward to the future, by earnestly and prayerfully inquiring into our spiritual state in the sight of God, and by forgetting the things which are behind and reaching forth to the things which are before, pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. A new year's season is too frequently employed in a far different way. But to improve it in the way we have indicated is certainly the best and wisest mode.

We may all be conscious of a tendency to turn away our thoughts from ourselves—from a consideration of our own spiritual condition and prospects. For instance, at such a season as this, we are very prone to look back upon the past, only to think of the public events, and important occurrences which the past year witnessed, forgetful of the interest which we ourselves have in the rapid lapse of time. The past year has no doubt brought in its train many important events, affecting to no small degree, the welfare of mighty nations. In India, in China, in Japan, as well as nearer home, events have taken place during the past year, which the future historian will note as fraught with momentous results to the nations of the earth. But let us remember that each of us has a history of our own, that each of us has interests of eternal duration and of paramount importance. Let us learn to look more within,

and regard it as our special duty to work the work given to us to do, and to make daily progress in our Christian course. Our time for spiritual improvement, and for active service in the Lord's vineyard, may soon come to an end. The history of the world itself will come to a conclusion. The great drama will have an end. With reference to ourselves individually, we are here but strangers and sojourners. Our course may soon be finished. In the course of the past year many have passed away, and have gone to their account. This year we too may die. Let us begin the year by giving ourselves anew to God, and seeking, by his grace, to carry out more fully the great end of our being, serving the living and true God, and waiting for His Son from heaven. Let us seek habitually to cultivate the frame of mind expressed by the Christian Poet:

Now I live;
But if to-night? to-morrow? Know I not.
O well for me, when I can leave my lot

All unto God!
To him, my faithful service give,
And through his Spirit's strength
Prepares for my account at length.

See the flower
Which full of brightness in the morning shone,
It doeth no longer wave the stalk upon
When evening comes.
So lasts man's glory but an hour.
And canst thou soul, thus waste
A life that lieth in such haste?

Stand thou clear
From earth, Here is thy struggle, yonder rest,
Up, up my soul! press forward, heaven is
best?

Now hasten home
Let earth seem distant, heaven more near.
How soon this life doth fly!
How soon comes that which shall not die?

Never delay,
To do the duty which the hour brings,
Whether it be in great or smaller things;

For who doth know
What he shall do the coming day?
This moment is for thee!
The next perhaps thou shalt not see.

Father of all
So let thy warning 'watch' be not in vain,
Let my soul hear,
And daily answer to the call,
Then sudden death shall be
But a quick step to life and thee!

NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.—INDIA.

There are few principles that have received better confirmation from recent events, than that of the connection between social religion and social safety. India, by the sad experience of these two eventful years, has supplied the most striking illustrations of this connection; though to whatever quarter we turn, proofs in abundance meet our eye of the inefficiency of any public policy that ignores religion, and of the failure surely awaiting every scheme of national amelioration that appeals to no higher principle than expediency. Italy, France, and America, teach the same lesson; how grievous is the yoke of mere unreasoning force, and how speedily freedom itself, declines into anarchy, when refusing the definitions of the divine law. It will be sad indeed if the costly experience of the last two years is to be lost on our nation. And yet we do not wonder at the apprehensions which a recent speech of Lord Stanley has excited, if it is to be regarded as a programme of the new policy, which has been inaugurated for the regulation of Indian affairs. It is as