

and Japan about the middle of May, reaching Vancouver about the first of June, remaining in port about ten days, arriving at Yokohama the latter part of June, and at Hong Kong about the eighth or tenth of July, making the round trip within eighty or eighty-five days.

The second boat, the "Abyssinia," is intended to leave Hong Kong on or about the first of June, and the "Batavia" will follow from Hong Kong for Japan about the first of July.

It is intended at the commencement to make this new steam service four-weekly, reducing the time, if found to be practicable, to from three to four weeks.

Favorable arrangements have been made for the prompt forwarding of merchandise and passengers to all Puget Sound, California, and Oregon points.

### "LEND A LEAL LOYAL HAND."

**I**N the RECORD for March an article appears reminding our Ministers, Elders, Agents and others, of the resolution of last year's Synod at New Glasgow, that the Ministers of the Church should assist the Editor as much as possible in making the RECORD interesting and successful among our people. It is known that Mr. Melville desired at that meeting of Synod to be relieved of his Editorial duties; but agreed to continue for another year on condition that the friends of the Church would assist him as much as possible. It should be remembered by all the readers of the RECORD that Mr. Melville is the Pastor of a large and flourishing congregation whose parochial duties alone would task a man of ordinary abilities; and had he not been a man of superior culture and talents, he would be crushed under such weighty additional duties. Mr. Melville has conducted the RECORD since the beginning of 1884, and every monthly issue speaks for itself ever since. Any one who glances over its pages can see that it is not got up in a *slap-shod* way, but that every sentence is carefully studied. It is not a mere compilation of extracts, but originality is stamped upon its pages. It compares favorably with ANY RELIGIOUS PERIODICAL EXTANT. Its circulation has increased steadily since 1884, so that it is now larger than it was before the Union. It is not the organ of any party, but of the Church. It has done good service in showing the position of the Church of Scotland in Canada. It has bravely advocated the principles of such

as have declined to join the majority of 1875. Its criticisms upon the faults of dissenting Churches may seem keen, but not so severe as that of the dissenting Churches upon us. Who can show us a single sentence in the MONTHLY RECORD that is not both true and useful? And should not the truth be honestly told? No one (we are sure) is better qualified for this duty than the present Editor. The minority have seen no reason why the Church of Scotland in Canada should be absorbed. They have, on the contrary, in the face of formidable difficulties, manfully maintained her. They are not desirous to interfere with other religious societies or vex other Churches, but to work under their own banner. The policy which forces a religious organization upon people against their will, cannot prosper. It is the old spirit of oppression or religious tyranny showing itself under a different guise. One aim of the RECORD has been to show this; and the statements contained from time to time in its various issues have not yet been answered or refuted in any one instance. There can be no doubt that the RECORD has done much, since 1884, in building up the cause of the Church in both the Maritime and Upper Provinces; but if the present Editor be left to do his many heavy duties without due help, and if on that account he decide to resign at the next meeting of Synod, and allow the RECORD to pass into more inexperienced hands, the paper itself will suffer, and our cause may be injured. Let every one therefore "lend a leal loyal hand" to lighten the burden of the Editor while we have the opportunity. To deprive a Church of her organ is to throw her into obscurity. It is to paralyze her efforts and silence her voice. Her good works do not then shine before the world. The hope of a Church depends very much on an organ worthy of her name, her doctrines, and her glorious commission.

Ontario, 1887.

KIRKMAN.

### SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

**T**HE ninetieth birthday of the Emperor William, of Germany, was celebrated with the greatest enthusiasm. The Emperor is deservedly popular. He is looked upon by the Germans as the Father of his people. He has seen his country pass through many and great vicissitudes. During his lifetime it has risen from a kingdom humbled to the dust and crushed under the heel of the conqueror, to be the first military power in Europe. It is no