

THE HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD.

MAY, 1861.

HOME WORK.

When we deduct ministers laid aside from active service on account of age, infirmity, or other reasons, and when we take into account licentiates and catechists, our church has over a hundred active, energetic men, whose daily business it is to bring sinners to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, and to build up saints in their most holy faith. We say, their *daily business*: for all a minister's employments, even his recreation, must have a bearing, direct or indirect, on this great work to which he has consecrated himself. But what are a hundred men to the vast work before us as a denomination! Talented as many of them are, well educated and devoted as all of them are, self-sacrificing, eager to do their Master's bidding, yet alas, how wide is the field which they cannot overtake! Sheep wander unherded in all our borders and fall an easy prey to the ravening lion. Death knocks at many a door and bursts it open, where the herald of Christ has never entered. Heresy, superstition, dense ignorance, can boast of hundreds of thousands of votaries and victims even in these provinces. God's light is shining brightly, but the darkness repels it. The citadel of Satan towers loftily, bidding defiance to the beleaguering hosts of the Lord. What have we done—what are we doing to expel the foe, to take possession of the land through the length and breadth of it for our King and God? Are we working with all the eagerness and devotion of men who know that they are working for life or death?

All evangelical denominations, especially all Presbyterians, are our natural allies. They may attack us—deal unkindly with us—and by troubling us aid the common foe; but God forbid that we should repay injury with injury. No! We will conquer them even as Jacob conquered Esau, by the irresistible and overwhelming power of brotherly love. They are our brethren—our fellow-workers, though they may be in partial error. Let us in all kindness shew to them the more excellent way to which we have attained; and let us be thankful to the Saviour who has honored us by calling us to maintain a clearer testimony on behalf of his truth, and giving us a position in the high places of the field, where the toil and danger are greatest and the battle is thickest. It is no part of our work to disturb other Christian churches, or make proselytes out of their ranks. We are not careful to conceal the fact, nay, we have proclaimed it and we shall proclaim it, that our Church is the most scriptural in organization, in doctrine, in discipline, of all the churches that surround us. We can accordingly offer our sincere congratulations to any christian who, leaving another denomination, unites himself to us—for he leaves a lower for a higher platform of christian unity.

But our great home-work is to carry the gospel where it has not yet penetrated—to the fisherman's hut, the lumberer's camp, the navy's shantie—ay,