

[From the Montreal Presbyterian.]

The Religious Census of the Province,—its Inaccuracies.

Our attention having been drawn to the volumes containing the result of the Census, we were struck with the exceedingly imperfect manner in which the Religious Census had been taken by the Enumerators. The total population of Canada West by the Census appeared to be 952,004, (in, say 1851, for the Census is in fact the Census for that year). The Anglican appears there to be the predominant denomination—the numbers being 223,190, the Church of Rome 167,695, Wesleyan Methodist 96,640. The Church of Scotland is set down at but 57,542; but great injustice is done to it, as will presently be shown. Free Presbyterians are ranked at 65,807 and other Presbyterians at the large number 80,799! Thus, on the showing even of this Census, the Presbyterian bodies collectively number 204,148; but we are quite convinced that their numbers are much more considerable. It is well known that there are now three prominent bodies of Presbyterians, the Presbyterian Church in connection with the Church of Scotland, the Free Church and the United Presbyterian Church. In the next Census we hope a column will be appropriated by name to each of these bodies, and care taken to allot their respective adherents to each Church, so that the large numbers assigned to the sweeping head of "Other Presbyterians" may be properly distributed. We presume our reason of the number under this heading being so large is that the popular answer of members of our Church to the Enumerators interrogating them would be "I am a Presbyterian." But, as we have already stated, we are thoroughly convinced that, while the enumeration of the Presbyterian bodies is inaccurate, with reference to our own body it is grossly so. In Hamilton City, for instance, the returns do not show a single adherent of our Church; in London the return is the same; in Bytown but 198, in the extensive county of Waterloo none; in Frontenac none; in the rapidly settling county of Bruce but 65; in Lambton 146. In the county of York again the Census credits us with no adherents, though the contrary is so manifest, while no less than 9159 are set down under the accommodating head of "Other Presbyterians." But we have shown that very slight dependence is to be placed on it with regard to Upper Canada. Let us turn to L. Canada and we meet the same results. The gross numbers there are set down—total population, 892,261; and the distribution thus: Church of Rome 746,866, Church of England 48,402; Church of Scotland with 16 settled congregations but 4,047!! the Free Church 217!! and these accommodating "Other Presbyterians" 29,221!!! But, to particularize, in Beauharnois District, where we have large and numerous Congregations, and where as an accurate and reliable correspondent of one of the daily papers, "Papius Cursor," showed in a letter transferred some time ago to our columns, we have a very large number of members and adherents, no adherents are assigned to our Church! In Gaspé, where we have one congregation with a settled pastor, and one without, there appears but 10! Huntingdon again, none; and, to cap the climax, the City of Montreal, none!! It is unnecessary to enter upon an analysis of the return of the various counties in the Province; we have pointed out sufficient inaccuracies to demonstrate that no reliance can be placed upon the returns of the various denominations. In fact

we would be disposed to estimate our adherents in all Canada at 120,000 rather than at the low figure assigned to them, and would esteem even this a moderate estimate. We trust that, ere another census be taken, measures will be resorted to, to secure accurate returns, without which, however carefully and systematically compiled, as the volume before us really appears to be, the Census is a mere delusion. The assigning of distinct headings to the Presbyterian bodies, and the giving particular instructions to the Enumerators, may perhaps remedy the evil. In our examination of the Census we have been struck with several features of interest, which we may hereafter develop in an article exhibiting the distribution of the members of our Church and the need for a Home Mission on a comprehensive plan.

The Congregation of Three Rivers.

We have much pleasure in extracting the following from the *Three Rivers Inquirer* of 15th August.—*Presbyterian*.

To-day at 4 o'clock, P. M., the corner-stone of the Presbyterian Church was laid. This highly respectable section of the Christian body has in course of erection a handsome and commodious place of worship.

The Congregation in February last appointed the following gentlemen as a Building Committee:

Messrs. John Kerr, Messrs. G. Baptist,
G. B. Houlston, W. McDougall,
A. McPherson, A. McKelvie,
A. Craik, T. Gordon,
James Dickson;

and so active have they been in soliciting subscriptions, and so liberally has their appeal for support been responded to, that they anticipate the completion of the outer portion of the building before the winter sets in. The Congregation have secured a permanent Pastor in the Revd. G. D. Ferguson, whose zeal, piety and Christian liberality have secured him the respect and confidence of all parties.

This day will be deposited in the corner-stone of the Church several coins of the Realm, with the usual documentary notices of the Church, and a copy of the *Three Rivers Inquirer* printed on White Satin. It gives us sincere pleasure to wish our fellow-Christians God-speed.

Congregation of Hamilton.

We learn with pleasure from the *Hamilton Spectator* that the Ladies of the Congregation in Hamilton have recently presented their pastor, the Revd. R. Burnett, with £50, to be devoted to journeyings for the benefit of his health. Such instances of kindly feeling and sympathy are indeed cheering.—*Th.*

MISCELLANEOUS.**A French Officer's Letter from the Crimea.**

Among the many letters from the Crimea which have appeared from time to time, we do not remember to have read one more simply beautiful than the following, published in the *L'Univers*. We give it at length with the note prefixed to it by the French journalist. Our readers, we are certain, will peruse it with an unmingled sentiment of ad-

approbation, and I am sure that our people, to the extent of their ability, will be willing to contribute to it.

Time will not admit of my adverting, however briefly, to all the matters that have been under discussion since we assembled here. I cannot, however, refrain from expressing my great satisfaction, that amid occasional difference of opinion on subordinate matters, there has been a spirit of brotherly harmony manifested on every important question.

I should not be doing justice to your feelings nor to my own, did I not bear my willing testimony to the great benefit we have derived from the corresponding members who have been present with us on this occasion. Very pleasant have their society and countenance been to us. I trust as we are now about to separate, that a gracious Providence will conduct them in safety to their respective homes; and that we may hope to enjoy many such meetings with our esteemed Brethren who are labouring in other parts of our Lord vineyard.

It has been to me a source of unpeakable satisfaction that neither at present, nor on any former occasion si "I had the honour of a seat in this Court, has any business of a painful nature, affecting the character or status of any of our Brethren in the Ministry been before us. I trust that "He who walketh amid the seven golden candlesticks" may so sustain us all by His grace that we may ever be ensamples to our flocks, "may shine as lights in the world;" and give evidence that we feel in our own souls the power of those heavenly truths we declare to others.

We are now about to return to our respective fields of labour, and I am persuaded, judging from my own experience, that we shall go home with our hearts refreshed, and our strength invigorated, for our daily and weekly duties among our people.

"I commend you all to God and to the word of His Grace," beseeching Him to be "your Shield and Helper," trusting that we may all be spared and privileged to meet again on the return of another year, and especially that, when a few more meetings and partings are over, we may all be gathered into that joyful Assembly in the Courts above, which "shall go no more out," but shall surround the throne of the glorified Redeemer through the unceasing ages of eternity.

The Moderator then concluded with prayer and the Apostolic benediction.

ROLL OF THE SYNOD

Of the Presbyterian Church of New Brunswick in connexion with the Church of Scotland, August, 1855.

Mr. John Brooke, D. D. of St. Paul's } Moderator.
Church, Fredericton,
Mr. William Henderson, A. M., St. }
James's Church, Newcastle, } Synod Clerk, p. t.

I.—PRESBYTERY OF ST. JOHN.

Clerk, Rev. William Donald, A. M. St. Andrew's Church, City of St. John.

CONGREGATIONS.	MINISTERS.
Fredericton, St. Paul's.	John W. Brooke, D.D.
St. John, St. Andrew's.	Wm. Donald, A.M.
St. Andrew's, Greenock Church.	John Ross.
Edmund & Woodstock.	John Hunter.

Peter Keay, ordained Missionary.
Messrs.—John McBeath, Fredericton, St. Paul's. John
Giles, St. John, St. Andrew's.

II.—PRESBYTERY OF MIRAMICHI.

Clerk, Rev. William Henderson, A. M., Newcastle.

CONGREGATIONS.	MINISTERS.
Restigouche, St. Andrew's.	James Steven.
Newcastle, St. James's.	William Henderson, A.M.
Chatham, St. Andrew's.	William Stewart.
Bathurst, St. Luke's.	James Murray.
Bathurst, St. John's.	Alexander Forbes.