

REPORT.

The General Missionary Committee

To the Friends and Supporters of the Canadian Primitive Methodist Missions.

The flight of time renders it necessary to present you again with our Report, and that flight cannot fail to remind contemplative minds how much nearer we are to eternity than twelve months ago. We have not so much time for usefulness as we had. Our opportunities for doing good are less than they were. Whatsoever, therefore, our hands findeth to do, we should do at once : while the day lasts, we should work ; for the night cometh, when no man can work. " Occupy till I come," is the command given to all the followers of Christ ; a command involving present, continual labour. The condition of the world calls for our labours : notwithstanding the existence of our holy Christianity, how alarmingly fearful is that condition ! A Report confined within narrow limits, cannot enter into details ; but we have only to look abroad to find that the world still lieth in the arms of the wicked one. At the time of this Report being written, nations boasting of their advanced civilization are grappling with each other in iron fight : the earth is deluged with the blood of thousands of men : widows are numbered by thousands, and the fatherless by tens of thousands. The Man of Sin has been adding to his other blasphemies, by pronouncing himself infallible. The spirit of indifferentism is rampant ; scepticism yet lifts its brazen front to the heavens : iniquity unblushingly presents itself in most enticing forms ; and yet, in the midst of all these, there are encouragements for the Christian to toil on. In many parts of the earth, the gospel is winning its widening way. In India, hoary superstitions are giving way before it ; and a spirit of enquiry respecting its character and claims has been extensively evoked. Madagascar having renounced idolatry, claims to be ranked at least amongst nominal Christian nations. China and Japan, notwithstanding their opposition, are being silently influenced by the religion of Jesus. Spain has proclaimed liberty of conscience and worship ; and Austria has abolished the Concordat. Christian Churches are feeling more deeply their responsibility, and are doing more for Jesus than heretofore : larger gifts are laid on the Missionary altar than in former days ; and godly people are more cheerfully acknowledging their gold and silver belongeth to the Lord.

The Parent Society of the Church with which we are connected has during the year opened a Mission to Africa, and two brethren have been labouring there with success : a third is preparing to go to another part of that Continent : and here, in this land, God has been blessing our labours. Our discouragements are many ; yet God is our helper. Our difficulties, principally arising from a scarcity of efficient and experienced labourers, are neither few nor unimportant. To have responded to the calls for assistance at the last