

# ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD.

For the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

"Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation."

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PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

A meeting of this Presbytery will be held at Cobourg, on the last Tuesday of February at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Half yearly financial reports will be called for, and the overtures sent down by the Synod will be considered.

JAMES BOWIE, Pres. Clerk.

Notices of Recent Publications.

LETTERS OF JOHN CALVIN, compiled from the original MSS. by the Rev. Dr. Jules Bonnet, and translated from the original Latin and French, vol. I. II. 8vo. p.p. 483, and 456, Philadelphia Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1858. Sold by Rev. Andrew Kennedy, London C. W., agent of the Board.

These two beautiful and substantial volumes constitute one half of a work, the publishing of which was begun in Britain, but not completed, and is now to be carried out in the United States, through the liberal pecuniary aid of a Christian Gentleman who is anxious that these very interesting and valuable remains of the illustrious Geneva Reformer should be given, in an English dress, to the Calvinistic Churches. The letters (which, when all published, will amount to six hundred) commence with the 19th year of Calvin; for

even then' his mind had attained to great maturity. They are addressed to a variety of persons connected with the Protestant Reformation. One of them, in French, to Edward VI., the singularly pious young King of England, who, to the unspeakable loss of the Reformation in his kingdom, died in the 10th year of his age, is prefixed to the first volume as a fac-simile of Calvin's hand-writing. We give the following striking passage, translated.

"It is a great thing to be a king, especially of such a country, and yet I doubt not that you regard it as above all comparison greater to be a Christian. It is indeed an inestimable privilege that God has granted to you, Sir, that you should be a Christian King, and that you should serve Him as his lieutenant, to uphold the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in England."

The multiplicity of Calvin's correspondence, along with the far greater amount of his almost daily preaching and lecturing, and his numerous issues from the press, all of high literary merit, show the amazing activity, acuteness, and exuberance of his mind. In perusing his letters, which are written in an easy, epistolary style, and seem exceedingly well translated, we feel as if solemnly carried back more than 300 years, and conversing familiarly with Calvin and his fellow labourers in the Reformation. The letters are not merely historical of that great event in Divine Providence, but particularly give utterance to Calvin's views and feelings respecting what was going on in the actual work of the Reformed Churches. The personal qualities of his character stand out in a highly favourable light exhibiting both understanding and heart as worthy of much admiration and esteem. No candid person can read these free communications of his sentiments without an elevated conception of John Calvin, who in many quarters has been the object of so bitter misrepresentation and abuse. We hope that the other two volumes will ere long be published. We may add that it requires a somewhat minute acquaintance with the general history of the Reformation to read these letters with proper interest; but read along with D'Aubignés work, particularly what of it relates to the Reformation in France &c., and with Dr. Henry's "Life and Times of Calvin," they will serve richly to inform and delight the intelligent and earnest student of the greatest era (next to the primitive period of Christianity) in the past history of the Church of Christ upon earth—the era of the Reformation from Popery in the sixteenth century. The price of the volumes, \$1 30 each, is far below the usual rate of bookselling. Of Calvin's works the Board also has published the following:—1. His great systematic work, which was given to the world, both in Latin and French, before he was 30 years of age. P. A. Allen's very good translation, in 2 vols., royal 8vo. 2. His Commentary on the New Testament, in French, 4 vols., royal 8vo. 3. The necessity of reforming the Church, a re-

presentation submitted to Charles V. and the Imperial Diet at Spire, in A. D., 1544. This volume is a masterly *expose* of the causes which then demanded a reformation from Popish abuses, and will well repay a careful perusal now, while Popery is still substantially the same, and remains the great mass of corruption with which we shall still have to do battle.

**CHRIST AND THE INHERITANCE OF THE SAINTS.** Illustrated in a series of Discourses from the Colossians. By Thomas Guthrie, D. D., Author of "The Gospel in Ezekiel," &c. &c. New York: R. Carter and Bros. Sold by D. McLellan, Hamilton, and J. C. Geikie, Toronto.

Many of our readers are acquainted with the eloquent discourses contained in the volume entitled "The Gospel in Ezekiel," and have learned to admire the rich evangelical doctrine and the brilliant imagery which characterize these discourses. The discourses contained in the present volumes, exhibit the same general characteristics. They are founded on Colossians 1, 12, 20. Of course the reader need not look for any professedly critical analysis of the text. This is not the excellence which distinguishes the sermons of Guthrie, who may however be justly styled the most popular preacher in Scotland. But, like the other works of the gifted author, these discourses are marked by true originality of thought and illustration, and by eloquence of the highest order. We doubt not this volume will be as popular as its predecessors. We may from time to time enrich our pages with extracts.

**THE TESTIMONY OF MODERN SCIENCE TO THE UNITY OF MANKIND.** By J. L. Cabell, M.D., Professor of Comparative Anatomy and Physiology in the University of Virginia, with an introductory notice by J. W. Alexander D.D. New York: R. Carter & Bros. Sold by D. McLellan, Hamilton, and J. C. Geikie, Toronto.

Sometime ago a somewhat pretentious work was published, under the title of "Types of Mankind," by H. Nott, M.D., and G. R. Gliddon, the object of which was to overthrow the doctrine of human unity. The volume before us contains the substance of a review of the work in question, which was originally published in the "Protestant Episcopal Review and Church Register." The writer seeks, successfully, to show that the peculiar views of Nott and Gliddon are not supported by the real teachings of science. He quotes largely from some of the highest authorities both in Europe and America, and, we think, has produced a book which will tend to confirm the impartial reader in the belief of the old doctrine that 'God hath made of one blood all nations of man to dwell on the face of the whole earth.'

**SERMONS OF BERNIKHEM** A Book for the Young. By J. R. Macduff, D.D., Author of "Morning and Night Watches," "Footsteps of St. Paul," &c. &c.