

THE

Presbyterian College Journal

VOL. VIII.—NOVEMBER, 1888.—No. 1.

The Montreal Presbyterian Pulpit.

A SHORT BED AND NARROW COVERING.

A SERMON

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“For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it; and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it.”—Isa. xxviii. 20.

THIS is manifestly an eastern proverb. It pithily describes a situation of perplexity and discomfort.

The Oriental beds consisted of mattresses laid on the floor; and in summer people drew a linen sheet over them, while in winter they wrapped themselves up in a carpet, which was part of the bedding. Those who have had experience of short beds, do not wish to repeat it; while, on the other hand, a narrow covering is with us, in our cold Canadian climate, a more serious drawback than it could possibly be to the eastern nations. So that this sententious verse is well fitted to strike our minds and find a lodgment in our hearts, as truly as it was adapted to the intelligence and sympathy of the men of Israel in the days of old.

The prophet, by this pregnant text, wished to impress upon the people the folly of having recourse to any other helper than the Lord Himself. Resting on false refuges was like a man's trying to stretch on a bed that was too short for him. Making pretences to spirituality, when their hearts were turned away from God, was as if one should endeavour to wrap himself with a covering too narrow for him.