

THE MISSIONARY RECORD

OF THE

Free Church of Nova Scotia.

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PRELIMINARY STATEMENT.

The Synod of the Free Church of Nova Scotia having entrusted a Committee with the duty of issuing a Monthly Record, it may be proper to commence the work with a short statement of the nature and the objects of such a periodical.

The Record does not assume the ordinary character of a Newspaper; for it is not to deal in the secular news of the day. Its subject matter is to be of a strictly religious nature, such as ought to be felt as interesting to all who are concerned about the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom, and especially interesting to those who hold by the principles of the Westminster Standards — That these principles are valued in the Lower Provinces of British North America is evident in the fact of the existence of the Free Church here, a fact which implies that there is a considerable population whose attachment to these principles is such that they are willing to make sacrifices in order to their maintenance. At the same time, it is to be acknowledged, that with regard to the Free Church, as with the other religious bodies in these Provinces, it is still but the day of small things. There are extensive districts which are but seldom visited by Free Church ministers, organized congregations are comparatively few, and even for these few there is not an adequate supply of labourers. The very circumstance, however, that with so large a population professing to hold by these principles as really exists in these Provinces, the means of grace are so very limited, shows the need of a periodical such as this. The members of the Church, in those localities where they may be favoured with the ministrations of a stated pastor, are too often inclined to sit down satisfied when their own wants may have been in some mea-

sure supplied, and they require to have a more extended view presented to them, to remind them of the bond which connects them with their brethren who are still struggling with difficulties from which they may have been just delivered, and to stimulate them to testify their gratitude for the privileges in which they now rejoice, by stretching out their hands to help those who, in as far as public ordinances are concerned, may have still to spend many silent Sabbaths, remembering in sadness seasons, now of rare occurrence, in which they were glad when it was said unto them "Let us go into the house of the Lord." There are many whose hearts, purified, warmed, and enlarged by divine grace, have prompted them to ask "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?" and who, having had their attention directed to the spiritual destitution which so extensively prevails around them, have, notwithstanding depressions in their worldly affairs, which they in common with others have experienced, in consequence of successive failures in the crops, felt themselves in circumstances to do something to relieve their more destitute brethren. There is no reason to doubt that, had there been means to bring the case still more fully before them, even these might have accomplished more than they have done, and that others who have been altogether inactive might have rejoiced to cooperate with them in this work of faith and labour of love.

To whatever extent there may have been neglects and shortcomings, where means were enjoyed and opportunities were presented of being useful in promoting the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom, it is nevertheless true that great things have been aimed at, that not a little has been accomplished, and that much is now in progress; so that a