

THE

MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN NOVA SCOTIA.



"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER GRIPPING — PS. LXXVII, 10.

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Prospectus.

In the present age, when Education is so widely diffused, and the power of the Press so great, it is the duty of every Christian Church to provide suitable religious reading for its adherents,—and to kindle their zeal and encourage their hearts by holding up before them what is doing by their fellow-churchmen and fellow-christians in other portions of God's vineyard.

For some years past, the want of a medium of communication for these purposes, has been deeply felt by the adherents of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia. While nearly every other denomination has had either a weekly or a monthly periodical advocating its interests, they have been compelled to rely for information, as to the movements of their Church, upon the occasional notices which they could glean from distant or indirect sources. Events of the deepest interest to them have been taking place, a knowledge of which there was no adequate means of diffusing, and misrepresentations have been put forth which there was no appropriate means of correcting.

Influenced by these considerations, and by the urgent solicitations which have been made to them, a number of the friends of the Church in Halifax have resolved to commence a periodical in the beginning of the year—to be entitled "THE MONTHLY RECORD OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN NOVA SCOTIA."

The Editorial Department has been undertaken by Ministers of the Church, and the financial affairs are to be managed by a Committee of Laymen.

The pages of this periodical will be devoted to the diffusion of general religious intelligence,—and more especially to the latest and fullest information relating to the Ecclesiastical, Educational, and Missionary undertakings of the Church of Scotland, at home and abroad. While avoiding controversy as much as possible,

the editors will feel themselves called upon to correct any misstatements or misapprehensions prejudicial to the interests of their Church, and to use every effort for the extension of her influence in this and the adjoining Provinces. They will also avail themselves of vacant space for the introduction of devotional articles, in order to render the publication suitable for Sabbath reading.

The Ministers and Laymen connected with this undertaking, are actuated by a strong desire for the prosperity of the Church of Scotland in these Colonies, and the spiritual welfare of her adherents, and they earnestly hope that their fellow-churchmen will encourage them by their hearty support,—and that the blessing of the Most High will rest upon their exertions. Every care will be taken to render the periodical acceptable and instructive,—and it will be published at the lowest possible price, so that it may be accessible to all.

It will contain 16 quarto pages (size of the *Canada Presbyterian*), and be issued monthly in the beginning of every month. Terms—2s. 6d. per annum—in all cases to be paid in advance.

The Church at Home.

It is now nearly 12 years since the separation of more than one third of her ministers and a large number of her people took place from the Church of Scotland. The separation we regret, and we condemn. We regret it for the injury it has inflicted upon the prosperity of the Scottish Church, rendering our national christianity less effective at home, and less influential abroad—for the fearful amount of unchristian feeling to which it has given rise among Scotchmen and their descendants, the envy, and hatred, and all uncharitableness: we regret it because it has strengthened the hands of those who maintain that government has nothing to do with religion, and weakened the hands of those who hold that

it is the duty of christian rulers in their official capacity to do all in their power for the extension of christianity: we regret it because it has added another to the many divisions which rend the body of Christ.

We condemn it because without holding or requiring to hold that there were no grounds for separation, we maintain that according to New Testament principles they were insufficient to warrant such a momentous step, and that division upon insufficient grounds is sin.

We regret it and we condemn it—and yet we would rejoice at the prospect of reunion. It would send a thrill of religious life among us and throughout the protestant world. It would make Scotland the most religious and best regulated country under heaven, and make Scottish christianity the mould in which these new colonial nations would be moulded.

But in the mean time we have to do with the national Church. Since the secession her course has been one of quiet but of constant and extensive progress. Many churches which were sadly thinned at that time are now crowded, and chapels of ease which were for some years in the possession of other parties, have now overflowing congregations. The late census return reported about 60,000 were sitters in the Established Church on a particular Sabbath morning than in any other denomination, but still great dissatisfaction with this return has been expressed by the friends of the church—and not without reason as is very obvious from a speech of Mr. Malcolm's in the Edinburgh Presbytery.

"Some of the largest congregations in the city—as for instance St. Cuthbert's and St. Stephen's—made no returns, and yet the average of 200 was assigned to them. He also happened to know that fifteen out of these twenty-six places of worship had in the year in which the census was taken no fewer than 7910 communicants, and that the aggregate number of these congregations was 11,270. In these fifteen places of worship neither St. Cuthbert's, North Leith, nor South Leith