

The Monthly Record.

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**A TEN YEARS' CANADIAN
MINISTRY.**

Some one has most considerably sent us per post, the "Pastoral Address, of the Rev. Gavin Lang, on the occasion of the close of a ten years' ministry in St. Andrew's church, (Church of Scotland), Montreal 1881." Merely to say, that the document was an interesting one, would not adequately describe the telling contents of this brochure. The immediate cause of the address was in consequence "of most gratifying surprises," in the shape of several flattering pastoral addresses presented by the members of an attached and affectionate flock, at the close of his ten years' ministry. We are satisfied that much spiritual good results from the first recognition of ministerial faithfulness on the part of the beneficiaries of sanctified ministerial influence. It serves not merely to stimulate the minister to more earnest deeds of good-doing, but it also prepares the hearts of the donors for the reception of truth from the lips and heart of the spiritual labourer. The earlier every day life and events of the minister of St. Andrew's, Montreal, seem to have been a fitting preparation for the efficient discharge of the affairs of a large parish like that of St. Andrew's, Montreal. Almost at the threshold of this public ministry, he was appointed assistant to that distinguished parish minister, and vol-

uminous religious author, the Rev. J. R. Macduff, D. D., of Sandford parish, Glasgow. He was successively minister of Fyrie, Aberdeenshire, and of Glassford, Lanarkshire in which later parish, his esteemed father had been minister for over 40 years. The close of ten eventful and laborious years of ministerial labour finds him now the successful and popular pastor of St. Andrew's, Montreal.

Strange to say, during those years of Canadian toil, of 40 ministerial brethren who were co-labourers with him in Montreal, only *three* remain. What a comment of the migratory nature of all things, colonial, and of ministers in particular. How sad the ten years' retrospect!

We notice the dispensation of private communion services. Who shall tell the benefit derived from such a seasonable administration? Mr. Lang, surely deserves well of his clerical brethren, seeing that he has broken through the trammels of a very absurd order in the Directory. The visitation of St. Andrew's Church Congregation has not been general, but pastoral. Mr. Lang does not say, but we may be allowed to say it for him, that a minister who is always in the street, and on the trot, cannot be in his study. There are two ways of benefitting a Congregation, one by striving to please everybody, and consequent non-success, the other, making faithful preparation for the pulpit on the Lord's day. The latter is decidedly the more excellent way.

The revenue of this church for the past ten years has been the enormous sum of \$110,892.42. Numerous charities have been