

THE  
**Home and Foreign Record**

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

SEPTEMBER, 1869.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PSALMODY.**

The Synod's committee on Psalmody beg leave to report that in terms of Synodical remit, communication has been opened with the Session of the church, "with the view of ascertaining how many copies of a book with a good selection of tunes would be taken in their congregations."

On receiving answers to the first circular it was found that so many Sessions failed to give any reply, and some of those who did reply gave so little encouragement, as not only to cause much delay but render necessary a second circular, which was issued accordingly.

Your committee have now the pleasing duty to report that while a considerable number of Sessions have not yet reported, replies have been received from so many, and these so very favourable, that ample encouragement has been obtained to warrant immediate steps for the publication of a suitable tune book. From 66 Sessions, orders have been received to the extent of 1235, and in several instances assurance has been given that a much larger demand may be anticipated if the book prove acceptable in quality and cost.

Your committee would remind the Synod that the selection of tunes has been chiefly though not exclusively determined by the returns of Sessions, and would take this opportunity of expressing high gratification with the evident care, excellent taste, and marked ability displayed in the various lists forwarded. It is proper also to acknowledge the thoughtful counsels which have been forwarded, even when accompanied by the announcement that no promise could be given for any number of copies.

In conclusion your committee would inform the Synod, that if authorized to continue the book, which has already entailed considerable anxiety and labour, the new tune book will be published before the next annual meeting. Whatever be the decision of Synod on this occasion, however, an

important end has been gained by the appointment of your committee under recent Synodical instructions, evincing as it does, that the supreme authority of the church has been exercised not only in such repressive measures as in prohibiting the use of instrumental music, but in resolute and watchful effort to elevate the public praise of the sanctuary into such artistic excellence as is consistent with the prominent position assigned in the Word of God to the service of song in the house of God.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES BAYNE, *Con.*

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.**

Your committee on Sabbath Schools, in presenting their fifth annual report would beg leave to state that they have attended in some manner to the duties entrusted to them. They would express gratitude to God for the large amount of attention that is given to this department of the church's work. In almost all the congregations within the bounds of this Synod we find more or less effort put forth to gather in the lambs of the flock, and means used to point them to Him who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

The special work to which the committee has applied itself during the last year, is, the preparing of a series of lessons as on former years. The plan pursued, as announced in the December number of the *Record*, is the basis of the shorter catechism, adapting, as far as possible, the passage of Scripture to be read, and the doctrine to be proved to the question of the catechism for the day; and the same course is proposed to be pursued next year, until we have gone through the catechism. 3000 copies of these lessons have been printed and nearly dis-