

THE CANADIAN  
Methodist Quarterly.

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VOL. V.]

JULY, 1893.

[No. 3.

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THE PROPHECY OF MALACHI.

THE HEBREW PROPHETS.

THE prophets of Israel belong to all time. They speak to all human hearts. They constitute a grand succession of faithful witnesses for the one living and true God. Their prophecies illuminate the times in which they were spoken, and lift them out of the shadows of obscurity into a clear and permanent historic light. The mists of uncertainty cover the religious history of the centuries that follow the close of Old Testament prophecy.

A combination of unique considerations invests with undying interest the study of their character, their mission and their oracles. They were the unquailing preachers of truth and righteousness, in times of the greatest moral degeneracy. They were the chosen messengers of Jehovah, by whom He made known His will. They proclaimed the coming judgments of God against the nations that rejected His claims. "They cheered and animated the people of Israel in times of deepest depression, by inspiring predictions of a coming reign of righteousness, when a Redeemer should arise to turn away ungodliness from Jacob. They rose so high above the priests in character and influence, that those minor orbs are largely lost to sight in the blaze of their superior brightness. In the Jewish theocracy they were the lights and touchstones of the national