

THE
Montreal Diocesan Theological College
MAGAZINE.

VOL. 4.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 1896.

No. 4.

"THE NEGLECTED CONTINENT," OR SOUTH AMERICA.

In contemplating the best method of bringing before your minds the spiritual needs of this vast continent, it occurred to me that it could be most impressibly introduced by a retrospect of our own primeval history, and a brief consideration of the influence which Christianity has had in the formation of our own British Empire, for by such a retrospect and such consideration we can best appreciate the favour which God has conferred upon us.

You remember that when upon the bleak downs of Bethlehem, the angels of Heaven broke the stillness of our eastern night, and sang "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace good will toward men," that far away in the heart of a German forest lay our forefathers, merged in a chaos of heathen superstition, as they bowed their heads to the unheeding "Thor" and "Woden"; and you remember also, that when by the tide of emigration they were swept along to the Island of Briton, there under the influences of the true religion they were destined to become the greatest nation that history has ever seen. And when we think of how this country has been transformed, from a land of barbarism to the home of civilization, from a land of idolatry, to the home of the church of the true and living God, of how its people have been changed from a warlike and blood-thirsty rabble into a nation, the name of whose queen has become the synonym of peace; when we think of this, I say, the heart of the Christian is poured out in gratitude to God for his mercies towards us. Ours has been the peculiar privilege of preserving the Word, and perpetuating the work which Jesus Christ began on earth. How then can we, who have been so honored, turn a deaf ear to the cry of the 37,000,000 of South America, who like the man of Macedonia, stand day and night saying "Come over and help us."