

# The Presbyterian ;

## A MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS RECORD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE LAY ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL.

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No. 3, March, 1848.

Price 2s. 6d. per annum.

After mature deliberation, and at the request of many of the Clergy throughout the Province, the Committee of the Lay Association, entrusted with the publication of "The Presbyterian," have determined on reducing the price to 2s. 6d. per annum. Ministers and others, on remitting 10s., will be supplied with five copies.

The Committee again earnestly call upon their friends to give their best efforts to obtain subscribers, and thus promote the circulation of a periodical among the Members of the Church, which, it is hoped, may be rendered of incalculable service in advancing their highest interests. With this view they urgently solicit from all well-wishers communications detailing the progress of the good cause, and from Presbytery-clerks documents on points of general interest.

All letters to be post-paid, and addressed "Editor of the Presbyterian," Montreal, not later than the 25th of each month.

THE PRESBYTERIAN.—Of numbers 1 and 2 we have forwarded several copies to each Clergyman within the bounds of the Synod for distribution, and with the view of their obtaining subscribers. We shall do the same with the present number; but during the month of March we shall expect to hear from all who wish to continue to receive the publication regularly. As the subscription for single copies is so trifling, it will be better in the great majority of cases if a few neighbours join together, when, by sending 10s. five copies, or by sending 20s. ten copies, will be addressed as they may direct.

A few of our friends have remitted us at the rate of 5s. per copy per annum. The price having since been reduced to 2s. 6d., all who have paid the higher sum will consider their subscriptions as settled for two years.

Though a very large impression of the 1st Number of the Presbyterian was printed, we are now out of copies, and regret that we cannot supply numerous orders. If any of our friends should have

received more than they required, it will be obliging if they return the surplus.

It being desirable that the Trustees for managing the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, should at once be put in possession of the different Congregational collections which were ordered by the Synod to be taken up on the first Sabbath of January, or as soon after as convenient, such Ministers as have not yet remitted to the Treasurer, are earnestly requested to do so without further loss of time. Much of the success of the Trustees will be dependent on the promptitude now, and at all times, with which collections are made and remitted.

### The Presbyterian.

#### THE CHURCH IN CANADA.

##### POSITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Not many years have passed away since we looked with pride, perhaps with sinful pride, on that part of the Church of Christ, in this Province, in connection with the Established Church of Scotland, after struggling through unnumbered and almost unsurmountable difficulties, taking her legitimate station among the great institutions of the land which form the character, and mould the destinies, of the people. Actuated more, we trust, by a generous patriotism than a feeling of nationality, we rejoiced at seeing her calmly settling herself in the affections of the Presbyterian portion of the population, steadily putting forth her energies, extending the sphere of her usefulness, and following with the ministrations of the blessed Gospel the

members of her communion into the dark recesses of the forest. In the grateful recollection of the efficiency of the Parent Church, as an instrument in the hands of God for diffusing abroad the streams of "grace and truth," we augured a rich return both of temporal and spiritual blessings from the labours of her patient, ill paid Ministers. But suddenly were these fair prospects overcast. Agitators were sent forth to disturb the minds of the people with questions which concerned the mere scaffolding—the things of temporary use or concern—more than the temple itself, built without hands in the human heart: questions which, moreover, had no practical application to the Church here. It would betray a lamentable ignorance of human nature to imagine that the discussion of such questions would lead to no bad consequences, even had it been conducted in the temper and peaceful spirit of the Gospel. But, when the worst passions and the fiercest partizanship under the guise of Christian zeal were brought into play, we dreaded the issue. Like Eli, when he trembled for the ark, we feared more the injury, that would be done to religion itself, than any detriment our Church could sustain from the rending and scattering of her forces. A greater evil has been done to the general cause of Presbyterianism than individually to our Church. The calmness and steadiness with which even in her infantile weakness she withstood the tremendous shock, proved that she was sustained by a power greater than her own. Though shattered and broken, and reeling under the blow, she was not laid prostrate. Not one of the Schemes in which she had embarked previous to the separation, has been suffered to perish. That they were weakened and impaired by that unhappy movement, and have not yet recovered their