

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.

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THE CHURCH IN CANADA.

RECORDS OF THE FRENCH CANADIAN MISSION, OF THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

We know that as there is nothing more reasonable than to love and to serve God, so there is nothing more pleasing to the true Christian than this employment. His greatest desire is to be always an instrument in the hands of the Lord, for the benefit of his fellow creatures, and he grieves and laments when he entertains the least suspicion that his life is not as useful as it might be. This unquestionable fact is, I believe, sensibly felt by every messenger of God, and has often been to me the source of great and painful anxieties. It has sometimes been hard for flesh and blood to stand against the opposition which I have met with, both from open adversaries and pretended friends of the truth. How often I have been almost ready to give up in despair, so grievous to me, was that opposition which was made by some who profess to be friendly to the general objects we have in view, but who are hostile to our Church, jealous of her operations, and so desirous and generally so skilful in court- ing public opinion, that they too often succeed in persuading even many devoted Christians, that all that is not connected with them, is "utterly unworthy of support." Their boast is that they are anxious to contend in season and out of season for the supremacy of Jesus Christ and of Christ only; whilst their conduct manifests, alas, too often and too clearly, that until now, they have been contending

less for the supremacy of Jesus than for that of the people; expecting in so doing to reach the pinnacle of popularity and of fame. How often, too, I have been obliged to grieve on beholding the indifference manifested in the midst of us, towards the work in which I am engaged, and to fear lest I become an almost useless servant to my Master. But, on the other hand, some considerations of a powerful nature have until the present time, supported me under my difficulties, and constrained me, "to hope against hope." First, I find myself in the midst of seven hundred thousand Canadians, who are, more or less, in the most profound ignorance in spiritual things, and whom I am fully persuaded, the prejudice which they entertain against those who are not of the same origin with themselves, and their ignorance of the English language, render, for the most part at least, incapable of arriving at the truth as it is in Jesus, unless this truth be conveyed to them in their own language. Secondly, I have always entertained the hope that the result of my feeble labours in Canada, might become, at a future period, of greater importance than if they were followed by immediate and brilliant success, and the history of the Church furnishes an abundance of facts, which confirm me in this opinion. Thirdly, I believe it to be absolutely necessary to preach the Gospel to the Canadians in their own language, in order that they may accept it. I am persuaded also, that it is most desirable that those Canadians, who have accepted it, should be united to some religious denomination, to prevent the establishment of other sects, and the dissensions which

necessarily arise from such causes. For although spiritual union is the most preferable, it is not the less true that the world, which only judges according to the outward appearance, is always disposed to believe that all those who do not bear the name of this or that denomination, entertain not only other views and sentiments, from all other denominations of Christians, but even profess another religion. And it would be a paradox impossible to realize, to imagine for one moment that the true method of uniting ourselves to all denominations of Christians, would be not to connect ourselves with any one whatever. Fourthly and lastly, I entertain the conviction that my present position is not the result either of fancy or caprice, but that it has been assigned to me, in all appearance, by a wise and Divine Providence, which will, I think, appear evident from the following details:—

In the year 1839, and while I was employed by the Bible Society in disseminating the Holy Scriptures in the south west of France (my native country,) among the Roman Catholics, I was requested to become one of the four Col-porteurs or Catechists whom the British and Foreign Bible Society in London had decided on sending to Canada, for the purpose of distributing the word of God among the French Canadians. Having accepted this call as coming from the Lord, I left immediately for London, where I found, to my great disappointment, that I was the only one who could undertake the voyage to America. Though this was the case, I did not hesitate one moment to do so, being persuaded