

CANADIAN PRESBYTER.

JANUARY, 1858.

THE MISSION OF OUR CHURCH IN CANADA.

That the Church of the living God has a *mission* in the world, in all ages, is very manifest. It has been sent by express mandate to the ends of the earth, as the Ambassador of the Almighty, to speak the words of salvation and to finish the Saviour's work of mercy and love. In a subordinate sense it is Messiah or Sent. It is His body, who Himself had a mission in the world, which is in process of fulfilment by and through the Church. We are therefore assuming nothing to which we have not a just title, when we take it for granted that our Church has a Mission in this land, both, in the general, as part of the visible community of the faithful, and in special, as having, in Providence, a particular corner of the vineyard assigned as our field of labor.

We would not however speak of *our* Church in any narrow or sectarian sense, or regard ourselves as possessing privileges, or being under responsibilities in any way peculiar. In the largest view of the Christian Church's mission, we would identify ourselves with all the Protestant and Evangelical branches of the one Church Catholic in this Province. One thing we have all to do as our paramount work, and that we must do if we would vindicate for ourselves the title of Churches of Christ—the common Saviour, whom we all alike profess to serve, must be exalted and enthroned, and sinners whom he has been sent to save must be invited and persuaded to believe in Him. If we neglect this primary work, and prefer anything else to it, we are unfaithful to our mission and in revolt against the authority of our liege Lord. One and all, by whatever name known, and by whatever lines of distinction separated, and, it may be, isolated from one another,—Episcopalians with their Prelates, Wesleyans with their Conferences, Independents with their special fellowships, and Presbyterians with their Synods, all well marshalled hosts,—must, if faithful to their Confessions and most cherished traditions, regard all things as nothing in comparison with the excellency of Christ Jesus and the salvation of immortal souls. This, then, is our great common mission, in regard to which there is no respect of