

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 Presbyterian.

Donation from John Black, Esq., Wigton, Scotland, £15s.

We feel much pleasure in acknowledging the above as an expression of the donor's appreciation of the manner in which the *Presbyterian* has been hitherto conducted, and of his warm wishes for its extended circulation and usefulness. He assures us that he has always heard his countrymen in Scotland speak in favourable terms of our periodical; as readers may derive from its columns, in addition to selected matter of an evangelical tone, much interesting intelligence in regard to the Church of Scotland at Home and in the Colonies, and in regard to the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom generally.

THE CHURCH IN CANADA.

(Abridged from the *London Times*, C. W.)

Duncan McKenzie, Esq., J. P., &c.

The Presbyterians of London well remember the visit of the Rev. Dr. McLeod, of Morven, in 1845. On his return to Scotland a crowded auditory convened in Edinburgh on the 10th November, 1845, to listen to the report which he and the other members of the deputation to British America were prepared to give of a visit so full of expected interest and information. An animated narrative of the proceedings, preserved in the "H. and F. Miss. Record," of 1st December, 1845. From the speech of the Rev. Dr. we cull with pleasure the following extract, called to memory by the appearance of the veteran McKenzie on Thursday last in the Hall of the Mechanic's Institute, and the active interest which he so nobly displays in the Church of his preference, the Church of Scotland. "I next

proceeded," relates the Rev. Dr. "to the district lying between Hamilton and London. That is a settlement of comparatively recent origin. In 1818 you might have seen there a dark athletic Highlander, who had shared in the glories of Waterloo, with his hatchet and one attendant, penetrating the deep forest till, having got a spot to locate himself on, he retraced his steps, cleared the ground with his own hands, and conducted his wife and children thither. You will still find that same person there in the enjoyment of as large a share of happiness as has ever fallen to the lot of mortal man. He is not only surrounded with a particularly fertile and rich tract of country, but enjoying the society of his nearest kindred and friends. It is pleasing to be able to say that he has been instrumentally aided by zealous friends of the Church in London in erecting a place of worship in his own district. Another Church is also about being completed in London, which may vie, some day or other, with the thriving and flourishing town of Toronto. "I shall be sorry, indeed, if the attempts to wrest that Church from that interesting people should succeed." "I am aware that they shall not succeed."

The following letter was presented and read to this veteran, who still survives in vigorous health and undiminished energy of spirit, in presence of his happy family, on the Friday after the meeting to which it relates, viz.

To DUNCAN MCKENZIE, ESQ., J. P. AND CAPT. OF THE VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY OF LONDON DISTRICT, C. W. LONDON, Aug. 4, 1853.

RESPECTED AND DEAR SIR,—

We, the undersigned, profoundly sensible of the many and valuable services which during a long and active life you have rendered to your Sovereign and Country, in Church and in State, in peace and in war, and, having listened with feelings only of purest admiration and delight to the stirring and eloquent address which you delivered this afternoon on occasion of the adherents and supporters of the Church in London, in connection with the Established Church of Scotland, being assembled with the view of calling the Rev. John Skinner, D. D.,

to be the Minister of said Church, do hereby earnestly request that you will furnish us from your best recollection with a copy of your address for publication in the *London Times*.

We are,

Dear Sir,

Yours with much affection and esteem.

Finlay McFee, President and Trustee.

James Dunbar, Treasurer.

Duncan McKenzie, Jr., Secretary, &c., &c.

The following sketch of the speech has been prepared, partly from his own lips, and partly from the recollections of several who heard him. The Rev. Committee of the Presbytery was present at the meeting.

Rev. Sir, the Moderator, if you please, I and my family reside 5 miles from London. But such are the demands of London that in my opinion Dr. Skinner's services should be confined to it on the Sabbath. It would militate against the consolidation and advancing prosperity of the whole cause, were his Sabbath labours to be divided between London and any, or all the surrounding districts in the country, especially if he should continue, as has hitherto been his practice, to preach in the afternoon of Sabbath in the Westminster Church on the 5th concession, a distance of 8 miles from London. The central seat of our Church and Congregation is London, whose population is rapidly growing, being now about 9,000, having added 3,000 during the last 3 years, and bidding fair to rise in the future even above this ratio of increase. Other Churches here are open on Sabbath evening, our people are most numerous in London, they are also liberal in their collections. For all these reasons an evening service, as well as a forenoon one, is required here in order to our growing and permanent success. I adopt the opinion, Sir, of my venerable friend, Mr. Archibald McFarlane, who spoke not long ago, and who, with a number of our most respectable families, lives on the Proof Lane from 7 to 9 miles out of London. He said that they all had subscribed an obligation towards the annual stipend of a minister, and that they had just as good a claim to the minister's services on the Sabbath as the Westminster people. But he himself and those families, his neighbours, put