

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

MAY, 1865.



F all the evils that afflict the Presbyterian body, not in this country alone, but everywhere else, that of division, or as our Episcopalian brethren term it, schism, is the most prominent. It is a fertile source of weakness to us. It fritters away our strength. It drives our adherents into other denominations. It diminishes the incomes of our Ministers; it lessens their means of usefulness. It often makes us sigh for a Bishop, or any other strong executive authority, that would keep it down. But it is, we suppose, the price that we pay for our liberty, and we must bear with it as best we may.

How often do we find two God-fearing, hard working Presbyterian ministers, settled in a small place, where one could do all the work, and for whom the stipend of the two, united, would make but a very poor living. And this state of things is the more vexing, when we consider the number of vacant neglected places, where one of these men would be such a blessing, and where, even in a worldly point of view, he would be so much better off. Holding such views, we have always exerted our influence to prevent what may be called rivalry, or opposition, among Presbyterians. We have no desire to work in rivalry to any Presbyterian body. On the contrary, we are most willing to go hand in hand with them, in the great work of evangelizing the country, and bringing into the fold of Presbyterianism, as large a number of the inhabitants of this young and rapidly growing province, as the united efforts of all Presbyterians can succeed in attaching to our form and Faith. We are led into these remarks from having had our attention called to an article which appears in the April number of the *Home and Foreign Record* of the Canada Presbyterian Church, very properly headed, "Eastern Townships, extent of Mission

field, past neglect, &c.," in which the Rev. D. H. McVicar travels back through our columns, as far as our issue for August last, and finds fault with some remarks made in that number by us when referring to a letter signed by "a Peripatetic Scot."

It seems to us that Mr. McVicar admits all that is stated. Ten years ago the Free Church tried to establish itself in Sherbrooke, and withdrew from the field, having, we may suppose without giving offence, failed, after a whole winter devoted to the effort. Finding the field deserted, we entered upon it with great prospects of success, but no sooner was our success apparent, than the Canada Presbyterian Church, which includes, as our readers know, the Free Church, hastened to send in an opposing element. For ten years they had neglected the field, giving only an occasional service at long intervals; but no sooner do we enter upon it, than the old feeling of hostility to us revives, and they hasten to oppose us tooth and nail. Now we certainly have great reason to find fault here. If they had continued to occupy the ground, we should cheerfully have left it to them; because, although we do not admit that, either in "men, morals or doctrine," they are any better than ourselves, we are inclined to go the length of confessing that they are very nearly as good; and therefore we would hold, that where Presbyterians in a limited place, are supplied by a minister of the Canada Presbyterian Church, they are well enough off, and should not complain. At all events we would not "start an opposition" under such circumstances. We quite agree with the opinion expressed by the Rev. D. H. McVicar at the meeting of the Book and Tract Society, held in Montreal last January, in speaking of this very subject. We copy from the report published at the time: "He (Mr. McVicar) adverted to the importance of rightly managing the Lord's business, and animadverted on the waste of power, in instances where, in a