

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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VOLUME III.

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CHURCH IN CANADA.

LADIES' MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION, KINGSTON.

We have very great pleasure in giving insertion to the ensuing Report, which has been handed to us for publication by a friend in this city at the request of the Association. We earnestly call the attention of our readers to the efforts to occupy the Home Mission field, which have been so successfully made under the auspices of the ladies of Dr. Machar's congregation in Kingston. The history of this enterprise affords a striking evidence of the benefits derivable from the formation of associations, as by their means the energies of their members may be brought to bear upon the furtherance of certain objects, their feelings may be enlisted, their sympathies may be awakened, and great good may be the result. The example set by the ladies of Kingston is a noble one, and redounds much to their credit, while the success of their Association must afford them ample gratification for the time and labour they may have individually contributed towards its advancement. The principle they have adopted in obtaining collections is an admirable one, and is invariably found to work well. All the members of the Church should be invited to contribute, and all should feel that it is a duty incumbent upon them to give freely towards the spreading of the Gospel. In Scotland all classes of the population are now waited upon and invited to contribute to the various Missionary and other similar enterprises; and, while the aggregate amount surprises by its largeness, great

advantage results to the poorer population, who are led to take a livelier interest in such benevolent schemes from feeling that the mite, which may be all that they can spare, will be as cheerfully received as the rich man's offering. We trust that other congregations will be stirred up to emulate the noble example of Kingston. Such an association could be easily formed in at least all our city congregations, and in these there is abundant scope afforded for their successful operation. The Home Mission should be an eminently aggressive one, and in our large cities a Missionary would find ample employment in the endeavour to bring as listeners within the precincts of the sanctuary, those who have forgotten to "assemble themselves together," and those who are being brought up in ignorance and sin, or suffered to run riot in vice, without instruction, and with, perhaps, the evil example of abandoned or neglectful parents before them. In our cities there exists a crying necessity for such philanthropic efforts to reclaim the neglectful and neglected; and we are confident that the members of our congregations would cheerfully respond to the call, were they asked to contribute to such an object. We hope to see ere long associations, having similar objects in view, established in all our city congregations; and our country congregations, we trust, will yet be induced to establish lay associations, or societies of a similar nature. We purpose reverting, at an early period, to the consideration of the duty of our people, as regards Home and other Missions, and in the mean time, we cordially commend the statements contained in the

ensuing Report to the attentive consideration of our readers.

ANNUAL REPORT.

It is now several years since the congregation of St. Andrew's Church resolved to take measures to procure the services of a Missionary to assist their much esteemed pastor in his arduous and increasing labours, and requested the ladies of the congregation to form themselves into an Association for the purpose of providing the necessary means. On the 4th February, 1846, accordingly, the ladies formed themselves into an Association, styled "The St. Andrew's Church Ladies' Missionary Association," having for its principal object the providing of funds for the support of a Missionary to aid the Pastor of the church in ministering to the Spiritual wants of the growing population of the city and neighbourhood. Any lady contributing becomes a member of the Association; it is managed by a committee of 23,—15 resident in the city and 8 in the country,—who meet on the last Wednesday in each month; and voluntary contributions are collected monthly by ladies appointed to that work, who pay over their collections to the Treasurer at the monthly meeting.

The collectors, 24 in number, two having been appointed to each of twelve districts, commenced their labours in February, 1846, and continued their monthly collections until January, 1847, inclusive, during which period the subscriptions, varying from one penny to sixteen shillings and eight pence per month, amounted to £240 1s 3d.

The exertions made up to this time to