

THE MONTHLY RECORD,

OF THE

Church of Scotland

IN

NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK AND ADJOINING PROVINCES.

VOLUME XXIV.

SEPTEMBER, 1878.

NUMBER IX

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning."—Psalm 137, 4-5.

COLONIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Report of the Colonial Committee has just come to hand—we extract the part relating to the Dominion of Canada as of most interest to our readers and as the whole would occupy more than all our space.

FROM THE COLONIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Recognizing the claims on the aid of this Church pressed by appeals from Canada, the last General Assembly encouraged the Colonial Committee, so long as it is necessary, and wherever it is possible with a due regard to efficient harmony of action, to co-operate in the work of evangelisation with the Presbyterian Churches there.

The emphasis thus laid upon the conditions prescribed for their co-operation, the Committee understood to imply, that they were required to carefully consider as to all the colonies, but very especially in the circumstances peculiar to the Presbyterian Churches in Ontario and Quebec and in the Maritime Provinces of Canada—*first*, whether the continuance of pecuniary aid from the Church of Scotland was necessary; and *second*, whether the attempt to aid the work of evangelisation be possible, in the divided state of Presbyterianism in

Canada, without the risk of aggravating the existing state of things.

Guided by these directions of the General Assembly, the Colonial Committee have attempted to fulfil their mission to all our Presbyterian fellow-countrymen in Canada. In the face of existing division, they continue to maintain with persistent firmness, with all parties in Canada as in the other colonies, that it is alone with the *Christian work* of the Churches in their *pastoral* and *evangelistic* efforts that the Committee have anything whatever to do. As to every other question of ecclesiastical procedure, either as to the relations of the Colonial Churches to one another or as to their exercise of discipline within their own spheres, the Committee have steadily resisted all attempts to force them, as representing the General Assembly, into the seat of judgment. As to all such questions of internal discipline and government, the Committee have faithfully adhered to that strict neutrality which the General Assembly has so frequently enjoined. Ignoring all questions that minister strife, and firmly maintaining the determination to be helpful *only in the Christian work* of the Churches, the Committee believe they follow in however great perplexity, the things that most directly make for peace in Canada. It is impossible, how-