

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.

CONTENTS.

	Page		Page		Page
CHURCH IN CANADA.		THE PRESBYTERIAN.		Know thyself.....	28
Soiree and Examination at Three Rivers	17	Sir George Sinclair's Letters (and small		MISCELLANEOUS.....	29
Vaughan Congregation.....	18	paragraphs).....	22	POETRY.	
Simcoe Congregation.....	18	REVIEW.		Passing under the Rod.....	31
CHURCH IN THE COLONIES.....	18	Early Moral, and Religious Education.	23	A Lay of the New Year.....	31
CHURCH IN SCOTLAND.		CORRESPONDENCE.		WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.....	32
CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.....	19	Clerical Association.....	26	FRENCH MISSION FUND.....	32
The Caste System.....	21	The New York Observer <i>versus</i> the		SUBSCRIPTIONS TO PRESBYTERIAN.....	32
Cochin Mission.....	22	Church of Scotland.....	26	ADVERTISEMENTS.....	32

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THE CHURCH IN CANADA.

SOIREE AND EXAMINATION.

On the 26th ult. the Sabbath School at Three Rivers, Church of Scotland, held the fifth anniversary. The children repaired to the church at 7 P. M., for examination, on their sacred poetry, Bible Catechism, and Geography of Palestine; and the proceedings of the evening were finished with praise and prayer.

On the 27th the Sabbath School at Black River was also examined in like manner. The appearance of the children on both these occasions, did great credit to themselves, their parents, and teachers.

After examination, the children were addressed, by their Pastor, the Rev. Jas. Thoin, as follows:—

In the earlier ages of the world, Moses the Servant of the Lord, the Father of Prophets, and the chief of law givers, taught the children of Israel, nay, of all future ages, by doctrine, precept, and example. In songs of instruction, praise, and thankfulness, he taught to sing of Jehovah's mercies, for 40 years in the wilderness. Amid all the grievances of their lot, the dangers of their life and the sinfulness of their depraved hearts, he still pointed to the light of immortality, to their blessed Redeemer, whose glory was figured in the pillar of fire that shone around them by night, or in the cloud that protected them from daily injury. And so, my young friends, on the infallible authority of Christ, our Saviour, we desire to teach you to fear God and keep his commandments. If ye do this, we are sure, ye will ever find him to be gracious, merciful, and able to save you the utter-

most. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

In review of your lessons, this evening I may be allowed to say, that you have answered well, many questions, on doctrines that are important, and essential to salvation and on the works of Creation, Providence, and Redemption. We expect not indeed that your young minds, can yet rightly scan the ways of God in his highly exalted and eternal providence, which was from all Eternity, or in his Almighty Providence which brings all things to pass according to the counsel of his own will. The understanding of God is infinite. Yours is finite. A few years ago you were not in being but he saw you then, and he sees you now; and he executes his decrees in your life, preservation, and redemption. He continues to work on your minds by the operations of his spirit, as well as by his laws on the kingdom of nature; in great majesty, amid the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of this world, you may see his glory in the present form and motions of the earth, as if you had lived in primitive ages. And as all things were made, and are upheld by the word of his power, so you cannot live a moment without God. All children, and men must die, but God is the same for ever and ever. One day is with the Lord as a thousand years. He is your Judge, in the place of your birth, or wherever you may go "I will judge thee where thou was created in the land of thy nativity," Ezek. 21. 30. As God continues to execute all his purposes, from one generation to another, by his Almighty

power and perfect righteousness, forget not, that in the common, or ordinary actions of life, such as thinking reasoning, or speaking, ye are made to glorify your heavenly Father. In your lessons learn him, in your prayers adore him, give your whole souls to him. This is your duty, but if, on the contrary, ye think evil in your hearts, or blaspheme his name, this sin is from the depravity of your unrenewed natures. God may permit you to live wickedly for a season, 'But the day of death or judgment will come. He will visit you as the authors of sin, and the transgressors of his commandments. He cannot be the author of sin, for he hates it with a perfect hatred.

Again in the relationship of children that are dear to God in Christ, he requires also some thing from you. This is the duty of obedience to his ten words, which are called by way of eminence his commandments; nay he forbids you under the severest penalties to transgress them. In keeping of them there is great reward—eternal life, and the enjoyment of God for ever. Shall you read and learn these words so carelessly as you have often done? Let it not be so among you, for they make up the two tables of the moral law of God. Because they are his revealed will for the salvation of mankind. They were spoken from heaven for our use, some 3000 years ago or 2460 years after the creation. They came from before the presence of the dreadful Majesty of the Lord on Sinai, and such fear fell on the people that heard them, that they observed them faithfully, all their days, and their posterity observed them as the rules of their conduct.