

# THE PRESBYTERIAN RECORD

FOR THE

## DOMINION OF CANADA

VOL. XII.

OCTOBER, 1887.

No. 10.

### CONTENTS.

	Page	Page	
The Harvest .....	253	Report on Sabbath-Schools ... ..	269
Our "Blue Book" for 1887 .....	254	Formosa, by Dr. G. L. MacKay .....	270
Editorial Correspondence—Florence to Venice .....	255	Trinidad, by Rev. K. J. Grant .....	271
Missionary Cabinet—Barnabas, Mark and Luke .....	258	do. by Mrs. Morton .....	271
Household Words .....	260	Rev. Joseph and Mrs. Annand .....	272
International Sabbath School Lessons .....	262	The New Hebrides, Rev. H. A. Robertson.. ..	273
Ecclesiastical News .....	264	Central India, Rev. R. C. Murray .....	274
Our Own Church .....	266	Missionary Outlook .....	275
Obituary Notices .....	267	Literary Notices .....	276
Report on Sabbath Observance .....	268	Page for the Young .....	277

### The Harvest.

IN spring time we looked forward with hope and faith to the "reaping time" of joy and the promise of a bountiful harvest. The harvest is garnered now, and we know how the husbandman has been rewarded for his toil. In many places, sunshine and timely rains and genial warmth have been sent, and the seed sprung up, matured and ripened, and the result has been an abundant harvest. In other places, though the sower sowed the seed, yet the rain was withheld and the heat of the sun was scorching and terrible, and the return for labour expended has been meagre and sadly disappointing. Our own people have undoubtedly lost through the drought much more than the million and a half dollars we annually give to support the Lord's work! The withholding of a few showers has cost us that! The giving of a few showers in their season would have been worth to us in money much more than all that we have been willing hitherto to give to the cause of religion: Still, with all drawbacks and losses, the harvest has been bountiful, and it becomes us to join in a song of thanks giving. Abundance in some quarters compensates for lack in others; and there will doubtless be bread enough in our borders to keep famine far away.

The extensive and long continued drought

of the past summer has its message from God to the Church. The old lesson is taught us anew of our absolute dependence upon God even for our daily bread. Science has done great things for us; but it cannot clothe the heavens with grateful shade, or bring upon our fields the refreshing summer rains; it cannot keep away from us the blast of the simoon, or dress our prairies in living green. We, even in our farming operations, must be workers together with God. Let us gratefully acknowledge this divine partnership and fulfil the obligations it implies.

Other seed has been sown abundantly during the season—the "seed of the Word." The sower has gone forth to sow over many fields from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island. Has "rain" been withheld? Has there been scorching heat or widespread drought? In this field, too, let us remember that we are fellow-workers with God, and that without His "showers of blessing," His Holy Spirit with the Word in our hearts, we can do nothing. What shall the harvest be of all this glorious summer's work in all our fields? Last year's spiritual harvest was better than usual, if we may judge from the facts in our statistical tables, and we know of no better criterion. Let us see to it that with the help of God there shall not be a "bad harvest" to report to next Assembly