

# THE MONTHLY RECORD,

OF THE

## Church of Scotland

IN

NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK AND ADJOINING PROVINCES.

VOLUME XXV.

FEBRUARY, 1879.

NUMBER II

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

### NEW YEAR SERMON.

DEUT. V. 3RD, LAST CLAUSE.—"WHO ARE ALL OF US HERE ALIVE THIS DAY."

PREACHED BY THE REV. A. J. MACKICHAN.

It is highly proper at all times, but there are seasons when it is more particularly appropriate for us, to take a retrospect of our past history of God's dealings with us. The mariner frequently calculates what progress he is making by consulting his log book. The merchant often examines into the state of his business in the course of the year. But he does so more particularly at the end, when he balances his books and takes in his stock. And how proper is it that the christian should annually review his heart and conduct, and endeavour to ascertain how much he has been doing, and whether he has made any progress in his journey towards heaven. It is true he ought to do this at any time, and frequently. But surely there is no season more fitting for such a purpose than when we are passing away from one year and entering upon another. The annual revolution of the seasons emphatically reminds us of the rapid flight of time and that our journey of life is fast hastening to a close, and that our day of grace is speedily passing away. And

surely this stern fact ought to make us think and enquire most seriously whether our growth in holiness bears any proper proportion to the progress we are making through life. We have now passed over another of the greatest stages of life. For since we last met together in this place, one year has passed away and we have entered upon another, which also in its turn will soon be numbered with the things that were, and be succeeded by another and another. And we know that when a few more short years are come and fled, we also should have gone the way that knows no returning. As yet however all present can say in the words of our text—"who are all of us here alive this day." And would that with a grateful heart and in a proper spirit, we could all echo the language of Joshua,—*"For the Lord our God, He it is that preserved us in all the way wherein we went."* In further addressing you we propose to make some reflections suggested by the words of our text, and in connection with the season on which we have entered. And may God himself direct us and bless our meditation, that they may be the means of promoting our spiritual improvement and growth in grace.

I. All of us who are here assembled this day, *have been preserved alive by the goodness of the Lord.*