

# MISSIONARY REGISTER

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# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA-SCOTIA.

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[P. 1.

TO THE MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The Church to which, of your own choice, you have the privilege to belong, was never in a more prosperous condition than at the present juncture. Of this cheering truth you must feel persuaded when you advert to the number of our congregations, the sound organization by which they are distinguished, their zeal and energy in all matters of public moment, the efficiency of our ministers, and the degree of our unanimity and co-operation as a body. For all this, much gratitude is due to the Great Head of the Church. Let it be our care to cultivate increasingly this holy principle, and with all christian humility and earnestness let us apply ourselves, as calls are addressed to us and opportunities offered, to every religious service, whether in our individual or social capacity.

Our Church assumed its present form in the year 1817. Previous to this period, while in the adjacent Provinces there were few Presbyterian clergymen, the limited numbers resident in Nova Scotia, together with the congregations under their inspection, formed either small independent sections, or, were individual ministers and their people, almost in an isolated state. These several parties had come either from one or other of the two principal dissenting bodies at that time in Scotland, or from the national Church. At the period, however, referred to above,

there was happily effected among them, with only one exception in this Province, a cordial amalgamation. This is to be regarded as an important era in the history of Presbyterianism in this country.

For some years valuable advantages were derived to our Church from the Pictou Academy. The system of instruction pursued was of such a nature as to prepare young men for the study of Theology. Not a few who received their education in that seminary are at this day occupying useful stations in God's vineyard. They form encouraging proofs of what can be accomplished as regards a native ministry, which, our Church valuing as she ought her own stability and increase, can never with safety, or consistently with her duty to God, overlook. Whatever diversities of opinion on this head may have at one time existed, I believe that now the sentiments which pervade our body are in general sound.

The civilized world never exhibited such activity as at present. To be satisfied of this we need only take a very cursory view of what is almost daily and hourly transpiring. This activity is widely diversified, intense, sustained, increasing, and leads often to altogether unexpected and astonishing results. The advances up to the present point, in skill and enlightened enterprise, in some of the chief departments of human action, have been gradual and steady. In no former age was it ever so conspicuously indicated