

MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE

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IN NOVA SCOTIA AND THE ADJOINING PROVINCES.

AUGUST, 1859.

IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—*Psalms 137, v. 5.*

Sermon,

preached in presence of the Synod of Nova Scotia in connection with the Church of Scotland, which met in St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, on the 30th July, 1859, by Rev. Allan Pollok, New Glasgow, Retiring Moderator.

Text:—"These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks."—Rev. 1:1.

Explanation:—"The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks, which thou sawest, are the seven churches."—Rev. 1:20.

These words form part of a vision which opens with great sublimity. The venerable Lord of the New Testament is chained to stern and desolate Patmos. Suffering there, not as a villain-doer, but "as a Christian" and a minister, his thoughts on the Lord's day are wistfully turned to his beloved Churches of Asia, garden spots of savor and beauty, planted by Paul, watered by Apollos, and increased by God. Grievous his exile; weary perhaps his hours; and bare and comfortless his prison-hold in the wide ocean, upon the shores of which had blazed in succession the great empires of antiquity, and where now shone in hisful contrast little centres of Christian life and Christian love, "the disciple whom Jesus loved" wasted not a useless thought upon his home, but mused on the checkered features of the Church of his Lord. Not indifferent, indeed, to the desolations of the land of his fathers, where the spear of David had smitten the foci, and where he himself had leant upon the bosom of Jesus, he reckoned that his home was his country, where he could best serve his

Master, and strike a blow of valor and affection for truth and righteousness.

His thoughts, then, were with Asia and his beloved Churches. Thus musing, he beheld a sweet and yet a terrible vision athwart the darkness of the heavens. As he turned, he beheld the figure of a large candlestick span the horizon of his view, its lights bright and pure as polished silver, and its branches beaming in the mellow gleam of yellow gold. With astonishment he saw in the midst of it, and walking so as to cast light upon it, the majestic figure of the risen and glorious Lord. "His countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength." On the opposite quarter he beheld seven stars in his right hand, by which, in seven noble streams of light, he diffused his spiritual beauties upon the golden candlestick.

He, whose voice is as the sound of many waters, declares that these are the Churches and the Churches' ministers. The one symbol means the visible Church, and the other means the Gospel ministry. What the candlestick was to the darkness of the night in which this vision was probably seen, the seven Churches were to the darkness of ignorance, error and superstition, that spread its pall over the Gentile world. And what the stars were to the candlestick, ministers are, or ought to be, to the Church in every age and clime. The honored position of the seven stars as being held up and forth in the right hand of the triumphant Redeemer, represents their honoured station in the Christian community, near the Saviour as the source of their authority, and the divine fountain of their ministerial life.

On this occasion I ask you to consider with