

reports, and the missionary and parochial labours they detail, without recognising this. We heartily agree with him, that "a third of our churches might do likewise." He dwells also upon the necessity of increasing the circulation of the *Record*. "I would like," he says, "to see a fifth of our people subscribers." One of the great uses to which the parochial association might be turned is the regular and increasing distribution of the *Record*. It will be found that, both in the U. P. and the Free Churches, it is only by a stated congregational agency that the comparatively large circulation of their *Records* is secured.

The following communication appears in the *Montreal Witness*. It is a confirmation of the views which we have several times laid before our readers:—

LOWER CANADA.

IMMIGRATION VS. EMIGRATION.

For ten years there has been little or no immigration of either Catholics or Protestants from any foreign country into any part of Lower Canada; but there has been during all that time a continuous emigration from it, chiefly of enterprising young men and women, to the United States of America. Indeed great numbers of the most liberal and enterprising of the *habitans* of French Lower Canada have been constantly leaving.

CAUSES OF NON-IMMIGRATION.

Catholic Frenchmen (except for their country's good) will not emigrate to a country wherein an ultramontane priesthood have for some two hundred years exercised a rule so despotic that it has dwarfed in almost every respect, except increase of numbers, *one of the best of peoples*. The remnants of the aristocratic families left in Lower Canada have partly escaped this deterioration, but the masses have been impoverished by the task-masters who lord it over them in a way from which their native land has been freed for nearly eighty years. And few British and other non-Catholics will come to settle in a country, sevenths of whose population they know to be enslaved by a Romish priesthood.

The "civil" power of unlimited taxation for ecclesiastical purposes, in which the priest and his fabrique are supported by the whole force of the British Empire; as ever and anon beggaring new parishes, and affording instances of oppression, from which, at present, no redress can be had even in a British court of law,—a power that the hierarchy do not possess in most Catholic countries. Add to these grievances the fact that some five-sevenths of all the public revenues for the encouragement of education are given for the support of schools which are neither more nor less than nurseries of the Church of Rome, and that a priest-party controls the Legislature of the country, whose spendthrift financiering has brought nearly to bankruptcy a Province which should have been one of the most economically-governed countries in the world.

Again, it is well known that by the proposed Confederation the whole of Lower Canada is to be handed over to the unchecked control of this same hierarchical despotism; that Lower Canada will not in all probability be represented in the Confederate Ministry by a single English-speaking Protestant Minister of the Crown; that the Confederated Parliament will as surely be controlled by the political priest-party as that the political slave-party of the South controlled by a like proportion of votes, the Federal Congress for over fifty years. These are some of the causes of the non-immigration to Lower Canada, and the continuous emigration therefrom to the United States.

Nor dare the so-called Minister of Agriculture (?) and Emigration (?) take one vigorous step effectually to promote the immigration of British or non-Catholics, or even of French Catholics from abroad, into the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada, for if he did he well knows that ere twenty-four hours thereafter the political guillotine of the Bishop and Pope-consulting Prime-Minister of all the Canadas would be applied.

BRITISH AMERICAN.

A few gentlemen in Montreal, in order to have the arguments for the Union of Presbyterians in Canada put forward in a readable form, and in moderate compass, have offered a prize of \$200 for the best essay on the subject. All the essays to be sent in for adjudication not later than the first of April next, and the high standing of the judges, who are to award the prize, gives ample security that a just decision will be given. The one which receives the prize is to become the property of the Committee, and must not exceed forty pages demy octavo, in long primer type. Rev. Dr. Cook, Quebec; Rev. Dr. Taylor, Rev. Mr. McVicar, Montreal; Alexander Morris, M.P.P., Perth, C.W.; and F. W. Torrance, Barrister, Montreal, have consented to act as judges. The subject is thus given:—

"The Union of the Presbyterians in Canada, with special reference to the advantages and practicability of such a Union, and the best method of bringing it about."

"CLERICAL RECORD."

Principal Snodgrass, in behalf of the publisher of the Presbyterian Historical Almanac, desires us again to intimate to the ministers of our Church, that he is taking charge of the returns to inquiries distributed in June last, with the view of preparing materials for a complete "Clerical Record" of the Church in Canada. The almanac in which the record will appear is devoted to the presentation of the past and