

THE
PRESBYTERIAN RECORD
 FOR THE
DOMINION OF CANADA.

VOL. XIII.

AUGUST, 1888.

No. 8.

CONTENTS.

	Page	Page	
Our Blue Book for 1887-88.....	197	Reports of Standing Committees.....	209
Missionary Cabinet, Mrs. Mullens.....	193	State of Religion, Report on.....	210
Centenary of Foreign Missions.....	200	Sabbath Observance, ".....	213
Household Words.....	201	Temperance, ".....	215
International Sabbath-School Lessons.....	203	The Presbyterian Alliance.....	219
Eclesiastical News.....	205	Formosa—Letter from Dr. Mackay.....	220
Temperance Notes.....	205	Progress of Missions.....	220
Our Own Church.....	207	Snailing of Missionaries.....	221
Manitoba Items.....	209	Page for the Young.....	222
Obituary Notices.....	209	Acknowledgments.....	223

Our Blue Book for 1887-88.

VERY soon the "Acts and Proceedings of the General Assembly" at Halifax, will be in the hands of our ministers and elders, and will be easily accessible to all the members of the church. It is a goodly volume of over 400 pages, packed with facts and figures relating to the work and the life of the church. It is a Treasury of information, which should be carefully studied, at least, by all the office-bearers of the church; and very much of which, ministers should take frequent opportunities of laying before their people.

The "Minutes" proper deserve perusal. These well filled pages fairly indicate the actual work accomplished during those twenty busy sessions at Halifax. Results are recorded; but there is no way of giving an adequate idea of the thought, the care, the labour implied in these "findings." On the face of these minutes we have abundant evidence of harmonious action; and very little indeed that indicates discord or even diversity of view. On the great matters of God and the church there is the most cordial and enthusiastic unanimity; and it would be no wonder if in some minor matters there should be, in so large and widely extended a body, considerable variety of opinion. For the love and unity

that prevail amongst us, and of which the world may well take note, let us be truly thankful! Old dividing lines did not appear in the late Assembly, even in a single instance. The memorable 15th of June, 1875, is more than thirteen years behind us, and each year does but show with increasing clearness that the Union has been owned and blessed by God.

It will be seen by the minutes and appendices that the church continues to take a deep and abiding interest in missions to the heathen. As the field widens, men and women offer their services, and the hearts of the people are opened to give with increasing liberality. It is forty-eight years since the first Presbyterian missionary, the heroic Geddie, commenced his noble enterprise in the south seas. Today we have missionaries in China proper, in Formosa, in India, among the Indians of the North West, in Trinidad, and in the New Hebrides. The report as given in full in our "Blue Book," is deeply interesting. Do not skip a page of it! The first Foreign Missionary that returned to this country was Rev. Dr. Geddie, who came for a brief visit some twenty-three years ago. He came telling of a whole island Christianized, and of a brave battle being fought in many other islands. Others have come home since then, bringing good news of wonders wrought in heathen lands