

# THE PRESBYTERIAN RECORD

FOR THE  
DOMINION OF CANADA.

VOL. XIV.

MARCH, 1889.

No. 3.

## CONTENTS.

	Page		Page
Annual Meetings and Reports.....	57	Our Home Missions.....	70
Missionary Outlook.....	58	Mission work in the North-West—Dr. Robertson..	70
Brieflet No. 3—In Rome.....	59	Obituary.....	70
Missionary Cabinet—Stephen Hislop.....	60	British Columbia, by D. MacRae.....	71
Household Words.....	61	Our New Hebrides Mission.....	72
Honan, China—Dr. Smith.....	63	Our Trinidad Mission.....	73
International Sunday-School Lessons.....	64	Editorial Notes.....	76
Ecclesiastical News.....	66	Literature.....	77
Our Own Church.....	67	Page for the Young.....	79
Manitoba Items.....	70	Acknowledgments.....	80

### Annual Meetings and Reports.

IT is a sign of progress in our church that nearly all the congregations hold annual meetings and carefully review the work of the year. "Stock" is taken, statistics are given, and the leading items are sent to the press for general circulation. We read with renewed pleasure these congregational reports in our contemporaries, and we note that, as a rule, there is progress—in many cases very marked progress; new churches are erected, or old churches are repaired; comfortable manses are provided for pastors; the stipend is increased; contributions to the schemes of the church are more liberal than ever; the Sabbath-school is larger and better equipped; attendance at the prayer-meeting, in many quarters, is better than ever; more names have been added to the roll of communicants—the Sabbath-school yielding a large percentage of the additions; evidence is not lacking that the people's interest in religious affairs is deepening and broadening.

Nearly all the congregations publish an annual report, or rather a series of reports, more or less elaborate, from Kirk sessions, trustees, missionary committees, Sunday-schools, young men's and young women's associations, &c., in which the transactions of the year are set forth and commented

upon. Some of these reports are beautifully got up. They are all interesting as affording an insight into the different ways in which the practical work of the church is carried on. Many of them contain an alphabetical list of the names and addresses of the members and adherents of the congregations—a congregational directory, especially useful to the minister and the members of the session. In some of the larger congregations, along with the full list of names, there is given a detailed statement of the amounts contributed by each individual for the missionary and benevolent funds of the church under the care of the General Assembly—"The schemes of the church," as they are rather inaptly called. Opinion is divided as to the advisability of doing this. To some it savours of ostentation, and it is objected to on the strength of an oft-quoted text,—“When thou doest thine alms let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth.” There are plenty of instances in which if the left hand *did* know what the right gave, it would know very little. But, seriously, it is wrong to classify gifts for missionary purposes with alms-giving. They ought rather to be regarded as, *pro tanto*, the account of a man's “stewardship.” On the other hand it is contended, upon scriptural authority also,—“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good