

modesty and forbearance in the sunshine of prosperity, and for her life-giving, soul-preserving lessons at all times, the Committee feel that they would be undeserving the name of Presbyterians, did they not use their best endeavours to strengthen her hands, to commend her institutions as an example to others, and, by all the humble means in their power, to increase her usefulness and stability.

"*The Presbyterian*" will be published monthly, price 5s. currency per annum. Ministers and others friendly to the undertaking, on sending 20s., will be supplied with five copies. The Committee of the Lay Association, entrusted with the publication, earnestly call on their friends throughout the Province to support them with their contributions at as early a period as possible; and they will, at all times, be glad to receive articles detailing the progress of the Gospel in their several localities.

Though not under the control or guidance of the Synod, this publication has its best wishes for support, as will be seen from the following extract from the Minutes of last Session:—

The Synod had laid before them a communication from the Montreal Lay Association in regard to the publication of a Monthly Missionary Magazine, after the model of the Church of Scotland Missionary Record, as contemplated by them. After mature deliberation, the Synod agreed to give the proposal their cordial support, and recommend Ministers and Elders to give their best efforts to obtain subscribers and promote the circulation of the Magazine.

All letters to be post-paid, and addressed "Editor of the *Presbyterian*," Montreal, not later than the 25th of each month.

THE CHURCH IN CANADA.

UNDER this department will be comprised all local ecclesiastical intelligence, and such original papers as will tend to promote the good and welfare of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland. The condition of many of the settlements, in regard to religious and intellectual education, has hitherto been but imperfectly known, from the want of a proper organ of communication with the public mind. The efforts that have been made to remedy the existing spiritual destitution, and furnish a sound and wholesome education, based on the principles of the Gospel, (the only kind of education which, in our opinion, will promote the peace, order, and prosperity of a community), have been rather of a partial nature than designed to meet, and gradually remove, the broad mass of ignorance and irreligion that unhappily prevails. And even the partial remedies, that have been employed, have too often been impaired, or altogether frustrated, by local prejudices, or the contentions of rival sects. No effective remedy can be applied, but one

framed from a perfect knowledge of the existing evil, both in its aggregate and in its details. If, within our own sphere, we shall contribute to enlarge the stock of information on points connected with the religious and social interests of the community, we conceive that we shall have discharged an important public duty; and we will leave it to those, whose peculiar business it is, from the material that we and others may from time to time place within their reach, to frame such enlarged and liberal measures of policy as will draw forth the ample natural resources of the country, and establish on a firm basis the happiness and peace of the Colonists.

We would respectfully invite the correspondence of those who take an interest in the welfare of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and more especially of those who have the means of ascertaining correctly the numbers and condition of its members in the more remote settlements.

We look forward with anxious expectation for the Report of the Deputation of the Church of Scotland. They have finished their work in this country, and every part of it they have done well. Their course was noiseless; but they came not to stir up strife, but to preach the Gospel of peace. Their mission has strengthened the hands and encouraged the hearts of their brethren, and comforted the minds of many of their countrymen under great trials. We could have wished, that the peculiar claims of their own flocks upon their services, had permitted them to remain a little longer to feed with the bread of life those whom they found in the wilderness. Yet, short as their stay among us was, we have good reason for believing that it has been blessed unto many. The detailed accounts of their arduous labours, and of the impressions left on their minds, during the accomplishment of their mission, will be an interesting and important document; inasmuch as it will throw much light on the spiritual condition of their Colonial brethren, and awaken a deep interest in their favour among their countrymen at home, as well as tend to concentrate and harmonize the efforts that may be made to ameliorate their condition. As soon as we receive any authentic account of the Mission of the Deputation, we will not fail to lay the leading points before our readers.

We would also request, from Presbytery Clerks, the favour of being furnished from time to time with such narratives of the proceedings of the Presbyteries as may be considered of general interest, and copies of such public documents as it would be of advantage to circulate widely among the members of the Church. And we earnestly hope that the information, thus obtained, will enable us to present such a view of the existing destitution, as will call into vigorous and effective operation such measures as, with the blessing of God, we may hope, shall ameliorate, and ultimately remove the evil.

THE PAST YEAR.

MINISTERIAL CHARACTER;—OBITUARY;—DEPUTATION.

IN taking a retrospective view of our Church during the past year, many circumstances demand our most unfeigned gratitude to its Divine Head, who has vouchsafed us so many tokens of His favour. On satisfactory grounds, and yet without any vain boasting, we may say that our Ministers have been faithfully and laboriously employed in their great work of preaching the Gospel, and discharging the duties of the pastoral office. Amidst many trials and discouragements, they have held on their way, confiding in His protection and blessing, whose messengers they are. Time is mitigating the bitterness of some of those trials to which we have referred, and the confusion, which they produced, is passing away. Those who have gone out from us, have lost the power, if they have not lost the disposition, to hurt us. "They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, that cannot be removed, but abideth for ever."

It must be regarded as strong evidence on the part of some of our Ministers, that they have borne so meekly the numerous calumnies that have been heaped upon them, and widely circulated in their native country,—where every good man wishes to stand well. These injurious charges, made by hasty and casual visitors, who could have no personal knowledge of the Ministers whom they defamed, and who evidently did not listen to any testimony favourable to them, were intended to affect not only their ministerial fidelity, but their moral character. The vindictive partizan may presume to pass judgment on a Presbyterian Minister from the rumours and surmises which may be picked up in any congregation among the disaffected; but all candid and honest men will reprobate such a proceeding. A few persons in Scotland may be deceived by the calumnies which have been circulated there against the abilities and diligence of the Ministers of our Synod; but the defamation of good men can never attain more than a temporary triumph. And we are persuaded that our Ministers in Glengary and Beauharnois, who have suffered most by it, will come out unhurt from the ordeal. Some of them have borne the burden and heat of the day,—have made great sacrifices, and endured many toils and privations in their sacred calling,—sacrifices, toils, and privations from which their accusers would shrink;—and, in the grace of God, their reward will, in no degree, be diminished by the slanderous accusations which have been propagated to their prejudice.

During the last year two Ministers of the Synod have been removed by death,—the Rev. William Durie, and the Rev. James Lambie, both of them in the mid-