

The Presbyterian.

A MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS RECORD



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE LAY ASSOCIATION.

Page		CONTENTS.	Page	Page	
THE PRESBYTERIAN.		THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.		POETRY.	
Occupy till I come,.....	49	Extract Letter, dated Madras,.....	54	Have I done what I could!.....	60
THE CHURCH IN CANADA.		Dinner to Very Rev. Principal Macfarlan, 54		The Sabbath Bell,.....	60
Education Fund,.....	50	The Late Rev. Dr. Mackintosh,.....	55	SELECTIONS.	
French Mission Fund,.....	50	Presentations, Sabbath Schools, &c.,.....	56	The Family Hearth—Sabbath Evening,.....	60
Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund,.....	50	COMMUNICATION.		A few words of advice to professing	
Ordination of Rev. Thos. Morrison,.....	50	The Support of the Ministry,.....	56	Christian Masters,.....	61
Induction at Dundas,.....	50	MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.		An Aged Christian,.....	62
Address by Rev. D. McNece,.....	50	The Foreign Missions of Great Britain,.....	57	Breadth of Human Responsibility,.....	63
The late Mr. James Mattheie, Brockville,.....	51	The Isthmus of Panama as a Mission		A Fragment,.....	63
Annual Soirée, &c., of St. Paul's Church,.....	52	Field,.....	58	God's Smitten Ones,.....	63
Statement in regard to St. Paul's Sab-		Sierra Leone,.....	59	Going to the Grave,.....	63
bath School, Montreal,.....	52	MISCELLANEOUS.		Support of the Religious Press,.....	64
THE CHURCH IN THE LOWER PROVINCES.		Dr. Duff,.....	59	Subscriptions Received,.....	64
Extract of Letter, &c.,.....	53	A Word for the Grand Duke of Tuscany, 59		ADVERTISEMENTS.....	64

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A "Constant Reader" in one of the Lower Provinces suggests that "it were well for the encouragement of the Church in the Colonies that insertion time after time would be made of whatever Collections are made by any of the Congregations in the Provinces." He refers to the February No. of the *Missionary Record* under the head of *Jews' Conversion*. "Collected at St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, N. S., 21st Nov., 1852, per Revd. Mr. Herdman, £3 sterling." He alludes to another instance some months ago, and judges that the insertion of such examples may surmount others "to go and do likewise."

In pursuance of the above suggestion we find in the *Record* for March the following items. *Foreign or India Mission Donations*. "Missionary Association in connection with St. Andrew's Church, Perth, Canada West," per Rev. W. Bain, £6 13s. 3d.—*Jews' Conversion*. Donations. From the "Missionary Association in connexion with St. Andrew's Church, Perth, Canada West," per Rev. W. Bain, £6 13s. 2d.

The communications from two esteemed correspondents, "The Past and Future," and "Incidental Evidences of the Supreme Divinity of Christ," have come too late for the present number, but will appear in that for May. Two other communications are under consideration.

We beg to apprise new Subscribers, of whom a considerable number has been

added to our List during the last month, that we are in the habit, for the sake of keeping up uniformity in our Despatch Book, of sending them the back numbers from the commencement of the year.

"OCCUPY TILL I COME."

"Work while it is called to-day." "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might." Members of the Christian Churches are too often forgetful of the duty of labour; they are apt to relapse into formalism—standing still, unaggressive—contented with the progress they have already made. There are many unprofitable servants; their one talent is hid in a napkin and buried in the earth, receiving but the accretions of rust, and the loathsomeness of decay. Grave is the responsibility of the Christian man, who pursues such a course, so lamentable an evidence of declension. We would press upon all the duty of labour—not only labour in their vocation—that is right and proper—but labour in their Master's Vineyard. Christians may not pass through life eating and drinking and labouring only for the things of this life, for time is very short, and "behold, the Judge standeth at the door." All may exert an influence for good; all have responsibilities, duties they may not neglect. Mind is ever acting and re-acting on mind, and none can measure the extent of the influence their conduct and example may exert upon their fellow-men—an influence diffusing itself—prolonged—carried out perhaps in widely ramifying circles to generations yet unknown. Many have low and narrow views of their position and duties. Many professing Christians

seem to think attendance upon Church a sufficient evidence of their zeal. They do not feel bound, or at least they neglect, to hold up their pastor's hands—to aid him with their prayers and their active, zealous co-operation. It is a duty to attend the House of God, and not neglect "assembling together" on the Lord's Day, and it is also a duty to contribute to the support of those who minister to us in spiritual things. But should Christian men be satisfied with these? Is there no field of usefulness lying before them—inviting them to enter upon it. Do they feel no burning love for their fellow-men—no longing desire to save souls? Do they feel no willingness to aid in the spread of the Gospel to the benighted Heathen? True, we are not all called to be ministers or missionaries, but we have all a call to work in our Master's Vineyard, for "to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." A Church will be vigorous, zealous, full of Christian life, when its members, its ministers and people, thoroughly imbued with their Master's spirit, are zealously anxious to obey the command, "Occupy till I come." We trust that the scope of our remarks may lead some to ponder on the subject of these reflections. Writing in a lay periodical, speaking to laymen, we would urge on our brethren of the Christian Laity a more entire realization of the fact, that they are component parts of the Church—that wide brotherhood who strive to follow in the footsteps of the Meek and Lowly One. Having made a public profession of their faith, let them beware of dishonouring their profession and proving stumbling-blocks to their weaker brethren. As elders, or