

# THE PRESBYTERIAN.

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ANNIVERSARY Meetings of the Religious Societies are now so firmly established in Montreal that they are looked forward to as marking that period of the year when every benevolent emotion is stirred up within us at the sight of the outward misery that seeks relief, and at the reports of what is

often still deeper misery, which conceals itself from the eye, until sought out and tended by the cares of those who, actuated by Christian sympathy, go about doing good. Much of the misery existing in large cities is, undoubtedly, owing to dissipation; although it would be very wrong to attribute it altogether to this cause,—many deserving families being reduced to distress from circumstances entirely beyond their own control. These Anniversary meetings, therefore, do good in this respect, that they are a standing rebuke to the scoffing of men who charge the active members of the Religious Societies, thus annually brought together, with seeking the good of distant savages, with desiring to supply tracts to the poor instead of clothing, and Bibles instead of bread, when it is found that the very men who are most desirous to spread the truths of the Gospel at home and abroad, are also the very men who are known to be most heartily at work in providing relief for the hungry and the naked. In other respects, too, they are worthy of being continued, not to blazon abroad the charity and good deeds of those who take part in them, but as a rallying point for Christian men and women where

those can meet who throughout the year may have been labouring in different departments, to show by their united action that though divided in name they are one in heart. Throughout the week devoted to these meetings the attendance appeared to increase and the interest to deepen with each succeeding meeting; the meetings of the Auxiliary Bible Society and the French Canadian Missionary Society being, as has been usually the case, crowded to excess,—reminding those who have enjoyed the privilege of being present at the May Meetings in London, of the grand gatherings at Exeter Hall, rather than an assemblage likely to be met with in a colony. Besides the Canadian speakers, there were friends from a distance, and some of the officers now in garrison here, who added much by their presence and addresses to the interest of the proceedings. Chiefly noteworthy, from the history of his conversion, was the Rev. Mr. Orestes, from Mexico, who by reading the Bible had been led to change his creed and to sacrifice a high position, worldly wealth and the regard of his co-religionists, believing it to be better to suffer with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Mr. Riley, from Santiago, Chili, who translated the address of Mr. Orestes, was himself an instance of the effects of true and living faith, as he has given not only his means but also himself to carry abroad the great truths of the Gospel. There were also speakers from the United States who were cordially welcomed, and whose presence showed that, whatever jealousies may exist between the two countries on political topics, there is a hearty disposition to recognize each other's efforts in the great cause of truth. These meetings tend also to keep alive an interest in the different means adopted for evangelizing the world, and not only do good to the city in which they are held, but exercise a reflex influence over, and even beyond, the whole Province. Men's hearts