

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.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS AND READERS.

The communication from our New York Correspondent came to hand too late for this number.—We have received a number of the *London Times* (C. W.), containing an account of proceedings in connection with the Church there at a Meeting of the Presbytery of Hamilton, held in the Hall of the Mechanic's Institute. We regret that it has been out of our power to overtake it in this number, but hope in our next to do justice to the interesting, though lengthy, address of the veteran Duncan McKenzie, Esq., so creditable to him, as manifesting his staunch attachment to the Church of his Fathers, and his generosity and earnest anxiety for the promotion of the best interests of his fellow-colonists.—On account of the space occupied by articles connected with the proceedings of the Synod, we have been prevented from giving in this number, as we had arranged to do, several interesting notices regarding the Meetings of Missionary Societies at Home.

AN EARNEST MINISTRY.

Were we asked, What we would esteem as one of the most promising indications of spiritual health in any one of those little bands of worshippers who make up the congregations of the Church, we would, humanly speaking, point to an earnest ministry. We live in bustling, energetic times. The science of accumulating wealth is studied with the most intense eagerness.

In our own Province we are at this moment upon one of those waves of fierce speculation and jostling monetary strife which have ever and anon visited the Older World. Prosperity is enjoyed by our countrymen; fields of enterprise are opening up; capital is flowing in, and the old aspect of affairs is being for a time revolutionized, whilst increased temptations to worldliness are thickening around us. This will not be a popular view of the present era in our country's history; and, it behoves us all, both pastors and people, to be on our guard. Prosperity is much harder to profit by, than adversity; and, when material wealth is being showered upon us, a zealous, plain-speaking, godly-living, preaching of the Word is indeed a blessing. Most noble is the office of the Ministry, and great is the good which, under God's blessing, the man, on whom the mantle has indeed fallen, can accomplish. Deeply responsible is the position of the minister of the Word, numerous his trials, constant his labours, frequent his opportunities for self-denial, and yet how great is his reward! How the achievements of warriors, the material conquests of Mammon Kings, pale before the unpretending, unobtrusive efforts of him who is privileged, under God's blessing, to be the messenger of mercy to some sin-stricken souls. But the reader will readily admit all that we have advanced. The sympathies of the coldest are with the earnest minister. There is a tone in sincerity that finds its way to the heart of the most callous; and the consistent walk of the Christian minister or the Christian man receives, it may be, an unwilling appreciation of his worth from the most careless. Yet there

are some, who wear the garb and fill the office of the pastor, in all the branches of the great Christian family, who do the office no honour. There are some too, who, strictly moral, yet perform their duties with a cold perfunctoriness—with a scrupulous particularity of form, which chills the hearer with the very lifelessness and frigidity of empty ceremony. Such a one the great Chalmers has told us he was ere the mighty change passed over his master spirit—that change which taught him his littleness, and drew him repentant to the footstool of his Gracious Redeemer. Some such there are yet among the dispensers of the Word; but an immeasurable greater number, we rejoice to believe, there are of God-fearing, earnest men, who have not lightly entered upon their office, who see the graveness of their responsibility, and who are constant in season and out of season in the service of their Master. Beneath the ministry of such a man doubtless, reader, you think you would be content; but are you now so? Is your minister a man of the true stamp? If so, are you holding up his hands? Are you co-operating with him in his labours of love, and are you working as a fellow-labourer with him? Or are you cold and unthinking, attending the ministration of the Word, but in no way evidencing in your walk and conversation that you have indeed followed after the Meek and Lowly One. If such be indeed your case, then, Oh! then, take heed and beware lest, thinking you stand, you fall. But do you hesitate in your reply? Do you admit that the character of your pastor is irreproachable, that his attention to his duties is exemplary; but yet, you say, there is a