

While we hope that the times will ere long improve, and especially that the Lord will again crown the year with His goodness, we feel this article will not be written in vain if it lead not a few to be thankful for the lessons of the "Hard Times."

THE N. Y. INDEPENDENT ON THE YEAR BOOK.

THE "Independent" of last week (March 14th) in an editorial, subjects to rapid review all the "Ecclesiastical Year Books" of Britain and America, some twenty-four in number. Among the rest THE PRESBYTERIAN YEAR BOOK FOR THE DOMINION OF CANADA came up for judgment. It must have looked small, (a minnow among trout; beside such a ponderous "Year Book" as "Sadler's Catholic Directory," 1,000 pages, or the "English Congregational Year Book," 480 pages. But in its unfaded coat of blue our Canadian "Book" holds a very high place in the estimation of the reviewer, on the roll of merit, with only 134 pages in which to display its researches. We quote the words of the "Independent" which are all the more weighty from the thorough acquaintance the writer has with literature he reviews, and the impartial way in which he deals out blame and praise all round.

"From Canada we have the PRESBYTERIAN YEAR BOOK, the 'Baptist Year Book' for Ontario and Quebec, and the 'Baptist Year Book' for the Maritime Provinces. The first named book (PRESBYTERIAN YEAR BOOK), is one of the best ecclesiastical annuals published in the world. It not only gives complete denominational statistics for its own country, but for the Presbyterians in all parts of the world—the only Presbyterian Year Book that we know of that covers so much ground. It includes, besides, an account of the Pan-Presbyterian Council; and the proceedings of five Presbyteries (in Canada) not connected with its own body. There are also general articles of great value."

It is very satisfactory to us as publishers of the PRESBYTERIAN YEAR BOOK, and to the editor, the Rev. James Cameron, to find that Canadian publications and Canadian authorship are beginning to command attention and respect abroad. Every Canadian felt gratified when the late Col. Denison's book on military affairs carried the palm: before a less august tribunal, but on a subject of greater importance than war another Canadian book comes now to the front.

PRESBYTERIAN HISTORY.

WE print to-day the first of a series of papers upon "Canadian Presbyterian History" to be furnished by Mr. H. S. McCollum, of St. Catharines. It has been his purpose to limit his researches to the "Niagara Peninsula and adjacent Canadian territory," but we feel assured that, if he have the cordial co-operation of the churches, and if it shall be generally desired, he will extend his field so as to cover a large part of Canada. Mr. McCollum is a journalist by profession, a Presbyterian by inheritance, education and sympathy, and has abundant leisure. He will need such information as can be furnished by pastors and church officers, from records and the recollection of the older members, also from "old family documents," old pamphlets, printed sermons and minutes of Presbyteries and Synod, and any other papers or printed matter from which church history can be gathered. All such documents he will return if required, but he would be glad to retain them with the owners consent, to be classified and bound, with explanatory and historical

notes, for preservation in the Library of Knox College. In this connection, we are glad of the privilege of publishing the following endorsement of Mr. McCollum's work, by Prof. Gregg.

"I am glad to know that Mr. H. S. McCollum is taking great pains to collect materials which will be available for writing a history of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. A committee, of which I am convener, was appointed by the Board of Knox College to endeavor to secure materials of this kind to be deposited in the College, for the use of our Church. Several valuable contributions have been already promised or obtained. The objects of the committee will be furthered by responses to Mr. McCollum's appeal for co-operation and assistance, which therefore I cordially commend to the office-bearers and members of our Church.
Toronto, March, 1878. WILLIAM GREGG."

NOTES FROM MANITOBA.

Dr. Black and Rev. J. Robertson lately visited Springfield and Sunnyside, had a successful missionary meeting in each place, and organized two missionary associations.

The Manitoba Bible Society held its annual meeting on Monday, 11th inst. A French colporteur has been at work for six months, and has done good work.

Rev. Mr. Campbell has returned from Contract 15, C.P.R., having spent three Sabbaths among the men. A permanent missionary is loudly called for.

Knox Church, Winnipeg, has decided to build a brick church this summer to cost \$20,000. It is a great effort for a congregation only five years old.

Manitoba College has two theological students finishing this year, and eight students entering the University.

At a soiree lately the Little Britain congregation cleared above \$250, and auctioned off the remainder of the debt—\$500. They have a comfortable stone church.

Selkirk, the point where the C.P.R. is to cross Red River, is a hamlet of some 150 inhabitants. Being on the railway line it has a disproportionate number of taverns. The Presbyterians are a small body, not very enterprising. They bought a short time ago a small building as a temporary place of worship; and on the 8th inst. held the first soiree ever held in the village, for the purpose of commencing a church building fund. Mr. James Coleleugh occupied the chair, and the Revs. Mr. Robertson and Professor Bryce, who had driven the twenty-five miles from Winnipeg through the worst roads imaginable, gave addresses. The meeting was very interesting and enthusiastic. Rev. Mr. Matheson, of Little Britain, preaches every Sabbath in Selkirk.

THE QUEBEC PRESBYTERY VERSUS THE HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

MR. EDITOR,—The Convener of the Assembly's Home Mission Committee, in your issue of the 15th inst., makes the following three-fold statement:

"1. The Home Mission Committee *never refused* a grant to Metis *or to continue* the former grant.

"2. The Presbytery of Quebec *did not ask for the renewal of the grant.*

"3. Since the grant was discontinued, the Home Mission Committee, *at every meeting* where a representative of Quebec Presbytery was present, has made inquiry as to what the Presbytery wanted to be done with Metis, urging that action should be taken in the matter."

The best reply to the first two of these assertions will be found by referring to the printed minutes of the Committee. From those of October, 1875, it will be seen that the Quebec Presbytery made application to the Home Mission Committee for an addition of \$50 to the Metis grant. This was acceded to, and in October, 1876, the Presbytery renewed the application for another year. The action of the Committee in regard to that renewed application is recorded on page 6 of the printed minutes of that meeting, thus: "Metis. Asked \$3.25 per Sab; granted \$3.25 per Sab. for next six months. Presbytery notified that if the contributions of the people are not increased the grant will then be withdrawn."

And on page 3 of the printed minutes of the next meeting, April, 1877, the following entry is found: "Metis. Grant withdrawn, the requirements of the Committee in October last not having been complied with."

In reply to the Convener's assertion contained in the third statement, I have simply to say that *only one*

meeting of committee has been held since the withdrawal of the Metis grant, namely, the one in October last, at which it was urged on behalf of Quebec Presbytery not only that the grant should be restored, but also that the loss for the previous six months should be made good. I may add, that fearing my inability to attend the meeting of Committee, owing to a death that occurred in my congregation on the preceding day, I hastily mailed a letter to the Secretary of Committee at Toronto, urging strongly the restoration of the Metis grant. This letter was not required, owing to my arrival in time; but doubtless it may still be found among the official documents of the Committee. I am, yours very truly,
PETER WRIGHT,
Late Convener of the Quebec Presbytery's H. M. Com.
Montreal, March 22nd, 1878.

OBITUARY.

It is with feelings of deep sorrow that we announce the death of Mr. Donald Cameron, one of the senior elders of Knox Church, Lancaster, which took place on the morning of the fifth inst., after an illness of four months, endured with great Christian calmness. Deceased was born in Perthshire in the year 1799; came to this country with his parents in 1801, who settled in the 3rd concession of Lancaster, and there deceased remained with his parents until manhood, and then procured a farm a short distance from the old homestead, where with his beloved wife, Mary Blacklock, he amassed considerable property and raised a numerous and well-doing family, the Rev. James Cameron of Millbrook and Centreville being a son. In early manhood he gave himself to the Lord, and ever since has maintained a life and conversation becoming the Gospel he professed to believe and to have received. In him faith in the revealed will and word of Jehovah was most simple, sincere and steadfast. He loved the truth and as a consequence gave much of his time to its study. Few men in his station possessed clearer views of the scheme of redemption and presented them with so much scriptural fullness. In him the temperance cause, since its first advocacy in Glengarry, found a firm supporter and a bold, earnest defender. To him, more than to any other, the cause of temperance in this community owes gratitude for loyalty in past struggles and for the commanding position and influence its principles wield in this district. In 1844 he joined the Free Church, or disruption movement, and in 1857 was ordained elder, which office he filled with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the congregation. Into the union movement he entered with all his heart, and had the satisfaction, ere he died, of seeing it prosper up to the full measure of his expectation. Possessed as he was in no ordinary degree of prudence, amiability, generosity and candour, with the ability to express himself fully and forcibly, it is not to be wondered at that his influence was greatly felt, and that his removal occasioned much real sorrow. By his death Lancaster has lost one of her most valued citizens, and the Presbyterian Church one of her most faithful members, a man of intellect and heart, of indomitable energy, and courage, intense loyalty to the truth, earnest and unobtrusive piety. The memory of such old men is blessed; they leave behind them footprints which others seeing may learn how to make their lives noble and great.

The Session of Knox Church caused the following record to be inserted in the minutes, March 13th, 1878, *inter alia*:

"The death of Mr. Donald Cameron, a member of session, being referred to as having taken place since last regular meeting of session, the following minute was unanimously adopted: 'That with humble submission to the dispensation of God's holy providence, the session records the death of one its members, Donald Cameron, who departed this life the fifth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight, in the seventy-ninth year of his age, and twenty-first year of his eldership. The session would bear testimony to his exemplary life, zeal and fidelity in the Master's cause, his public spirit and advocacy of temperance principles; and embrace the opportunity to render thanks to Him who giveth gifts to man for the grace that rendered our brother so pleasant in going in and out among us, and so faithful in the office he held; and that we acknowledge Infinite goodness that sustained His servant in his sickness, and gave him such clear and assured confidence of hope with the good. Write, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth, yea, saith the Spirit that they may rest from their labours, and their works do follow them.'"

SPECIAL services of much interest are being held in the Presbyterian Church, Oshawa. Large numbers remain to the enquiry meeting, and many profess to find Christ and salvation.