

THE
Home and Foreign Record
OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES

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PRESBYTERIAN PROGRESS.

We rejoice to see that in all the great branches of the Presbyterian family there appears to be earnest effort for the promotion of evangelical religion throughout the world. Home exangelization receives due prominence. Not since the Reformation have Scottish cities seen such gatherings of the outcast and the poor as have been witnessed within the last year or two. A generous rivalry obtains in regard to this Christ-like work between the several branches of the Presbyterianism of Scotland. To all we wish God-speed. Similar work is being attempted, and with a measure of success, in New York and Philadelphia—But the *mission* of our brethren in the United States is to follow the mighty movement of the population towards the vast plains of the great west. Churches by hundreds have to be provided in new fields every year. The Old and New Schools, and other “members of the family” are putting forth great efforts in this all important field.—The Canada Presbyterian Church has much the same kind of work to do on a smaller scale, and she is doing it. She has also with wise forethought sent her pioneers to the Red River and the lonely camping grounds of the Saskatchewan valley.

While our churches are thus attending to home work they are not unmindful of the claims of the heathen. No churches in Christendom, with the sole exception of the Moravians, do more in proportion to their wealth and numbers for Foreign Missions. There is no field of mission enterprise in which a Presbyterian is not to be found,

and in many of the most arduous fields Presbyterians have acted as pioneers. All the branches are “devising liberal things” for the heathen. A striking instance of this is to be found in the sending forth of Dr. Norman McLeod by the Established Church of Scotland, to report on the Missions of India. It is not yet half a century since Missions were sneered at in that Assembly as absurd and fanatical!

All the Colonial Churches from Ontario to Tasmania, are interesting themselves in Foreign Missions, though in many cases they themselves are just beginning life. But there never was better symptom of christian life in germ or in full fruition than this anxiety to tell the heathen of Him whose blood cleanseth from all sin.

Union negotiations, movements and discussions are going forward hopefully almost wherever separate Presbyterian organizations occupy the same territory. Sooner or later, the longed for Unions will no doubt take place,—much to the advantage of our holy religion. We accept it as a taken for good from the Lord that this Spirit of Union has been poured out so abundantly on His people. The two largest branches of the Presbyterian family—the Old and New Schools of the United States—will in all likelihood unite in the year 1870 if not even in 1869—on the basis of the Westminster Standards pure and simple. An event such as this cannot fail to have an influence for good throughout the Christian world.

The Presbyterian Churches are making remarkable progress in duly providing for