

THE
Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

SEPTEMBER, 1874.

OUR MISSION.

As a Presbyterian Church we are verging upon a very solemn crisis in our history. Providence has placed us in a most important position and committed to our trust very precious talents. We are the most numerous branch of the Protestant Church in the Dominion; but we are overshadowed by the compact and gigantic masses of the Papacy. Strong in numbers, we are also comparatively rich in material wealth, and, on the whole, our people have enjoyed the blessings of a fair education. The fact that we are next to the Roman Catholic body in numbers, warrants, in our opinion, the inference that we should lead in the battle of evangelical religion against all forms of error and superstition. If we occupy numerically the front rank of evangelical churches, should we not keep the same relative position as regards all the virtues and graces that adorn the body of Christ? Numbers are not always strength—sometimes the very opposite: let us give earnest heed lest we should fail in the energy, the unity, the zeal, the enlightened forethought and self denial that are essential to any adequate progress.

When the lines that have hitherto divided our Presbyterianism are blotted out, when we become organically one as we are one in faith and spirit, we shall be in a much better position to survey the field in which God has placed us, and to rise to the grandeur of our mission. There are in this Dominion thousands who neither possess nor profess any form of Christian faith. These are surely not beyond the

scope of our influence. They are legitimate "prey." It is part of our mission to bring the Gospel to bear on such, and by the help of God to bring them under the easy yoke Christ. It is no part of our work to meddle with the adherents or members of any other evangelical church; but it is a solemn and urgent duty to do all we can to enlighten the adherents of the Papacy. As regards Sister Churches, let us rival them in well-doing, or surpass them if we can; but as regards the Church of Rome our mission is to place the pure Gospel within reach of all who are in subjection to her sway. There are more than a million nominal Christians in this Dominion who are practically ignorant of Bible Christianity. Our duty towards these is manifest.

Our doctrine, worship, and polity are scriptural. We have the equipment that is necessary to carry forward the battle of the Lord to complete victory. Why should we fail? There are, as we see, masses of our fellow-citizens under the reign of a venerable but dark and dangerous superstition. They confront us politically as well as religiously. They have claims upon us prior to those of any other people. Their leaders are astute, aggressive, unscrupulous. They are determined to rule our country. Their vast numbers, their marvellous unity of action, enable them to exercise immense influence. On the other hand, every rightly constituted "Presbyterian Church is *de facto* a missionary organization, possessing all that is needful in the line of equipment or method for diffusive evangelical effort. This is indeed