

# THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD.



For the Presbyterian

Church of Canada.

"Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation."

VOL. XVI.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1860.

No. 4.

## CONTENTS.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <i>Editorial:—</i>  |    |
| The Present Aspect of the Church and the World.....               | 51 |
| The Cardross Case.....  | 51 |
| Educational Report.....   | 52 |
| Editorial Notices.....  | 53 |
| Items of Intelligence.....  | 53 |
| The late Dr. Bayne—Minute of Presbytery.....                      | 54 |
| <i>Communications, &amp;c.—</i>                                   |    |
| Chapter of the History of Presbyterian Church in Canada.....      | 54 |
| Knox's Church Toronto—Report of Sabbath School.....               | 56 |
| Obituary—Mary A. McQueen.....                                     | 57 |
| <i>Missionary Intelligence—</i>                                   |    |
| Free Church India.....  | 58 |
| Caffraria.....  | 58 |
| Jewish Missions at Breslau.....                                   | 58 |
| American Missions—Siam.....                                       | 58 |
| Western Africa.....   | 58 |
| Results of Missionary effort in the Sandwich Islands.....         | 58 |
| <i>Miscellaneous Articles—</i>                                    |    |
| Poetry—A Song of Praise for Christ... I will not Let Thee Go..... | 58 |
| The Theology of Rev. H. W. Beecher ..                             | 59 |
| Augustus Toplady.....   | 60 |
| Christians and Jesuits.—A Contrast... ..                          | 60 |
| <i>Proceedings of Presbytery, &amp;c.—</i>                        |    |
| Presbytery of London.....   | 60 |
| do Hamilton.....  | 61 |
| do Toronto.....   | 62 |
| do Cobourg.....   | 62 |
| <i>Corner for the Young—</i>                                      |    |
| Answers to Questions of last month .....                          | 62 |
| Questions for February.....                                       | 62 |

## PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE.

The next ordinary meeting will be held at North Gower, on first Tuesday of February, at 1 P. M.

J. K. SMITH, *Pres. Clerk.*

## PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

The next ordinary meeting of this Presbytery will be held at London, on the last Tuesday of March, at two o'clock, P. M.

W. DOAK, *Pres Clerk.*

## PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

The next ordinary meeting will be held at Cobourg, on the 14th day of February, for ordinary business; and on the following day at Port Hope, for prayer and conference with brethren of the United Presbyterian Church.

JAMES BOWIE *Pres. Clerk.*

## Notices of Recent Publications.

*ARCHAIA; or Studies of the Cosmogony and Natural History of the Hebrew Scriptures.* By J. W. DAWSON, L. L. D., F. G. S., Principal of McGill College; Author of *Acadian Geology*. Montreal: B Dawson & Son; London: Sampson, Low & Co. With an Appendix, pp. 506.

We hail the publication of this book as the beginning of a new period in the Literary History of Canada.

The works, that have hitherto been issued from our press, have almost entirely pertained to historical and other questions of either local or provincial importance. Some of these have undoubtedly been of a high order of merit and have redeemed our country from the charge of literary barrenness. So far as the departments Civil, Geographical and Natural History are concerned, we are not behind the age in which we live. We have added something to the sum of human knowledge in these departments, and our fame has reached the high places of European Science.

The advent of 'Archaiæ' indicates a decided step in literary progress. Here is a work not on any question, for which, irrespective of its merits, a circle of indulgent readers may be secured, but one embracing fields of investigation of universal interest and challenging the attention of both religion and science. We congratulate ourselves that a colonial author has been found capable of grasping with a firm hand questions at once profound and intricate, and of treating them in their multifarious bearings with clearness and force. Whatever opinions may be entertained of this speculation,

which this volume contain, there will, we are persuaded, be but one opinion as to the thoroughness with which its topics have been discussed, the patient labor which has been bestowed on every section, the elegance with which many of its truths are stated, and the wide and accurate knowledge of contemporary science which it manifests. Our author has not given crude and ill-digested speculations to the world, or claimed the attention of his fellows to that which he himself has not completely mastered, or regarding which he has not something new and important to say. The reader may take up this book with confidence that he will find in it truths of vital importance to Christianity, together with the latest and highest inductions of science in its bearings on religious faith, detailed in well conceived and carefully expressed terms.

The preface informs us that "this work is not intended as a treatise on elementary Geology with Theological applications, or as an attempt to establish a scheme of reconciliation between Geology and the Bible. It is the result of a series of exegetical studies of the first chapter of Genesis in connection with numerous incidental references to nature and creation in other parts of the Holy Scriptures." Underaken primarily for the author's private information, these studies "are now published as affording the best answer which he can give to the numerous questions on this subject addressed to him in his capacity as teacher of Geology."

It augurs well for the science of the present day that in its rapid advances toward the conquest of nature, it is not content to detach itself from the revealed writings. There seems to be an underlying conviction in the minds of almost all scientific men that somehow the Book of Nature, whose characters it is their business to decipher, is the counterpart of that manifestation of the Creator which is contained in the Bible. The very general conclusion is, therefore, that there can be no contradiction between the rightly understood facts of the one, and the rightly interpreted statements of the other. This conviction has led men of science to give an unusual attention to the biblical interpretation. We can remember scarcely a name of any note in the several departments of science, which is not also associated with speculations concerning the relation of science to the records of revelation.

It is to be regretted, as our author than more once mentions, that scientific studies have been so much neglected by the great mass of religious teachers and biblical expositors. Still it must be said in defence, that our best divines were fully up to the science of their own day.

If judged of not by modern standards, but by the standards of their time, they will be found by no means despicable in their knowledge of nature. With contemporary Physicians, whose department was physics, they will bear a favorable comparison as to their knowledge of Natural History and general science.

## PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON,

The next ordinary meeting will be held at Hamilton, on the first Tuesday of April, not the second as usual, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

JAMES MIDDLEMISS, *Pres. Clerk.*

## PRESBYTERY OF OTTAWA.

The next ordinary meeting will be held at Perth, on the first Tuesday of February.

J. L. GOURLAT, *Pres. Clerk.*

## PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

The next ordinary meeting of this Presbytery will be held at Toronto on the first Tuesday of April, at 11 A.M.

W. GREGO, *Pres. Clerk.*