

ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD.

For the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

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The subscribers to the *Record* are respectfully reminded that this number completes the first year of our publication—and that it is necessary that all arrears be transmitted immediately to the Publisher, Mr. James Webster, James St., Hamilton. We beg that our Agents will attend to this within the current month—the Synod having directed that the Accounts be audited and settled at the close of the year. As the publication of the *Record* is to be continued, it is hoped that the Office-bearers and Members of the Church will exert themselves to extend its circulation. The Committee entrusted with the management of the publication, are desirous to enlarge its columns without any addition to the present charge. This, however, cannot be done to any considerable extent without an increased subscription list and punctuality in the payments. It is requested that the Ministers and Missionaries of the Church will bring the matter under the notice of the people, and that lists of new subscribers be forwarded to the publisher on or before the 1st of August. Subscribers who have made payment for the past year will have the *Record* sent to them unless we are instructed to discontinue it.

Home Missions.

REPORT OF MISSIONARY PROCEEDINGS IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, BY THE REV. WM. LEISHMAN, ONE OF THE MISSIONARIES TO THE SYNOD.

Submitted to the Presbytery of Montreal, at their meeting in St. Gabriel's Street Church, Montreal, on Wednesday, 14th May, 1845, and approved of by the Presbytery.

Before completing my former Missionary Tour, I received, when at Belleville, a letter from the Rev. Mr. Gale, Convener of the Synod's Committee on Home Missions, directing me to proceed without loss of time to Montreal. My appointments, however, had been so made, as to fill up all the time, until the meeting of the Presbytery of Kingston on Tuesday the 31st December; and it was therefore impossible to comply with the terms of Mr. Gale's letter, without disappointing the parties to whom my preaching engagements had been previously intimated. The Presbytery of Kingston having met on the day above named, I laid Mr. Gale's letter on the table, and before proceeding to Montreal, I was directed by the Presbytery, to visit the Bathurst District, embracing Perth, Ramsay, Carlton Place, Bytown, and various other places in these respective neighbourhoods. At the request of the Presbytery, I produced a report of my missionary proceedings since the last meeting of the Synod's Committee on Missions, held on Wednesday the 13th November, until this meeting of the Presbytery. With that report the Presbytery expressed and recorded their unqualified satisfaction, and requested me to place it in their hands, with the view of being transmitted to the Home Mission Committee and published in the *Record*.

Having taken farewell of the Presbytery of Kingston, I proceeded to fulfil my Mission into the Bathurst District. This tract of country em-

braces a large amount of population, principally Scotchmen, and Presbyterians. In visiting it my mind was much affected by many beautiful reminiscences of the father-land, very powerfully conjured up, by the interesting conversation of numbers of my pious and intelligent countrymen, as they spoke of the scenery and the spiritual privileges of the land of their childhood, and deplored the deep necessity of their existing religious wants. I reached Perth on Friday the 3d Jan., and on the following Sabbath preached forenoon and evening in the Methodist and Baptist Churches, which were freely and kindly granted for the use of the Presbyterian Congregation. On the Monday evening thereafter, 6th Jan., at a meeting of the numerous and active committee, who have been entrusted with the duty of building a new Church, I gave some account of the structure of Canonmill's Hall, and of the various economical methods of Church building which are now adopted in the Free Church of Scotland. On Tuesday evening 7 Jan., a public meeting was held, at which I gave a lengthened and minute account of the causes which led to the disruption in Scotland, and the connection of these with the present position of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Perth is a station of very great importance, and previous to the Canadian disruption possessed two Presbyterian congregations, one of which was probably as numerous as any country congregation in the colony. It is chiefly from this congregation that those who approve of the principles of the Free Church have separated themselves. I cannot speak with certainty of the comparative numbers. The churches, on the occasions on which I preached were quite full, but whether those who were then hearers might permanently attach themselves to the new congregation, I do not know. When in Perth, I met with not a few whom I believe to be decided and unfeigned disciples of the Lord Jesus. An admirable spirit exists among them. They have secured an eligible site for their new Church, and have subscribed upwards of three hundred pounds for its erection. Although they have no stated minister, they forsake not the assembling of themselves together on the day of the Lord. They have secured good temporary accommodation in the upper flat of a large house which they intend to fit up as a place of meeting until their Church is erected. One thing which interested me not a little while I was among them, was the fervour and the sublime devotion of their psalmody. In this respect it formed a beautiful yet a most affecting contrast, to some of the neglected stations which I had visited on a former tour. In some of these remote places, few bibles and psalm books were to be seen; only three or four seemed able to sing, and when these few lifted up their voices in the praise of their Maker their broken and imperfect notes, gave mournful proof how far the old and sacred melodies of Scotland's glorious Sabbath's were forgotten.

On Wednesday the 8th Jan., I departed from Perth, to preach in the Presbyterian Church at Balderston's corner, where my congregation was not numerous, owing to the short notice which had been given of my coming.

On Thursday the 9th, I visited Dalhousie, and preached in a log built Church, erected in a beautiful and romantic situation. This humble Church is nevertheless commodious, and on that day contained within its four corners a crowded congregation of several hundred people—and a congrega-

tion too, composed, if I am not very much mistaken, of a deeply interesting material, as any in whom it ever was my privilege to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Their attention was intense and earnest, and their psalmody was reverend, as cordial, and as full of tender pathos, as that which in the golden time arose from the lips of the men of covenant and martyr renown. They are a poor but a truly noble people, and the struggles of the Free Church of Scotland have taken a very close hold of their true Presbyterian hearts. I did not see the Fair library which I was told they possessed, but I could form an idea of its excellence both from the great and the small things which I learned were on its shelves, for it holds a copy of the last and splendid edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, and adds every year to its volumes a copy of the *Edinburgh Almanac*. I think these papers also meet on the Sabbath days for the worship of God, although they have no minister. They are exceedingly anxious to enjoy this privilege, and I believe are prepared to exert themselves to Le'd a Manse, and to procure a piece of ground for the use of their future pastor.

The next stations at which I officiated were Ramsay and Carlton Place. The Methodist Churches at both of these stations were placed at my service on Sabbath the 19th Jan.

Ramsay once possessed a very large and flourishing congregation under the charge of the Rev. John Fairbairn, now the admirable and much esteemed Minister of the Free Church at Greenlaw in Scotland. A good stone Church and a frame built Manse, were erected in these days of by-gone prosperity, and it appears that there is now a disposition in certain quarters to deprive the people of their ecclesiastical property. Their zeal, however, and their determined principle are not to be damped by petty and legalised injustice. They are making active preparations to repair the breaches in the outer courts of Zion, and will build a Temple and a prophet's home for the Saviour's cause again. They have already secured a good site, and have subscribed above two hundred pounds for the erection of a new church. They were among the very earliest of the Canadian congregations to declare their approval of the principles of the Free Church of Scotland. They have had no Minister since the departure of Mr. Fairbairn, and it is about two years since this took place. Aged men de alied to me the pleasant but affecting story of the early ministry of their first and beloved pastor, of their hallowed Sabbath services amid the green trees of the forest, before a stone of their forsaken but goodly tabernacle was laid, and of all the fruits which were precious to the eye and sweet to the taste, as the numerous worshippers Sabbath after Sabbath for years assembled themselves within the house which they had reared for the service of the Lord. The scene is now changed, for the Lord hath covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger, the city is solitary that was full of people, and the ways of Zion do mourn because none come to her solemn feasts, and all her gates are desolate. Yet, are there some who follow not a multitude to do evil, who forget not their first love but remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, and meet together and read and meditate and pray concerning the things which belong to their eternal peace. Shall not the Lord of the vineyard see a tree that he has planted when it is weary, and shall not the glad sunbeam