

THE  
**PRESBYTERIAN RECORD**  
 FOR THE  
**DOMINION OF CANADA.**

Vol. V.

AUGUST, 1880.

No. 8.

**CONTENTS.**

<p>The Presbyterian Council..... 197          Good News from France..... 198          Sabbath-School Lessons..... 199          General Assembly Proceedings from 14th Sederunt          to close.....201          Meetings of Presbyteries..... 215          Ordinations, Inductions, &amp;c..... 216          French Evangelization..... 216</p>	<p>Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund..... 217          Obituary.....218          Ecclesiastical News..... 218          Our Foreign Missions .. 220          Formosa: Letter from Mr. Junor..... 220          Thank God and take Courage..... 222          Literature..... 222          Acknowledgments..... 223</p>
---	---

**The Presbyterian Council.**

**I**N a very few weeks the Presbyterian Council will meet at Philadelphia, and brethren will sit together as representatives of many branches of the far-spreading Presbyterian family. They will be there from all parts of America; from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales;—from Germany, France, Spain, Italy and Austria; from Africa and Asia, from Australia and New Zealand. They will meet in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, the Shepherd and Bishop of souls. There will be no earthly potentate,—emperor, patriarch, or pope to claim dominion over brethren in Christ. There will be no lordly prelacy; there will be no usurping papacy; there will be no disintegrating independency.

What then may we expect—what ought we to pray for? Our General Synods and Assemblies are over for the year. They have disposed of a vast amount of business and have laid their plans for another year's campaign. What work then is left for the General Council in which the Synods and Assemblies are to be represented?

1. It is our duty to show that as Presbyterians we are members of a truly catholic Church—a Church which has now proved her divine mission in nearly every country in the world. We are no longer separate and antagonistic sects; we are members of one noble family. Our spheres may be separated by continents and oceans but we are united by the same Confession, by allegiance to the same King, by the same grand traditions, and the same exalted aspirations.

2. We say in our Confession of Faith that "Saints, by profession, are bound to maintain a holy fellowship and communion,

which communion, as God offereth opportunity, is to be extended unto all who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus." Modern facilities of communication have rendered such "communion" practicable, and we cannot neglect it without great and perilous loss. If we are willing to sink into mere sectarians and allow Presbyterianism to become a byword of reproach, then we may neglect our opportunities, but not otherwise. It will be the duty of the Council to manifest to the world the glorious Presbyterian (and Christian) ideal of fellowship and communion.

3. We hope the Council will be able so to show forth the claims of Presbyterianism as to gain the ear of Christendom. Ultramontaniam is clamorous and obtrusive with its worse than mediæval claims to universal supremacy; and men willing to commit intellectual and moral suicide are submitting to its claims. Anglicanism, feebly parodying the great Antichristian system, is also loud and bold in its pretensions. These systems are dangerous to human liberty, are subversive of the Gospel, are at war with the first principles of modern civilization. It becomes the representatives of catholic Presbyterianism to show how our system in all its essential features is strictly accordant with the Word of God and with all the natural rights of man. The most advanced forms of civil government are only approaching to the perfection of the Presbyterian system in the combination of liberty with order,—individual right with general safety.

4. The Council will undoubtedly prepare the way with caution and prudence for its own regular and authoritative operation. We anticipate the time as not far distant when in all matters of general concern the voice of the General Council will be heard with due submission by all churches. Meeting