

The Presbyterian;

A MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS RECORD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE LAY ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL.

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INTRODUCTION.

A General Meeting of the Lay Association of Montreal, in support of the Synod of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, was lately held, at which a Committee was appointed to superintend the publication of a monthly Missionary Record and Religious Paper. Since the formation of the Association in 1845, the Office-bearers have circulated throughout the Province several hundred copies of the *Missionary Record*, published at Edinburgh by a Committee of the Church of Scotland; and they have received from many quarters the gratifying assurance that they have been perused with interest, and had a beneficial effect in preserving in Canada a kindly interest in the fortunes and prospects of the Church herself, and of her Missionary Schemes. The Lay Association, however, have felt, and they know that the feeling is participated in by a large portion of their fellow Presbyterians throughout the Province, that a Paper is much wanted, which, while it will afford ample information upon all points of interest connected with the Church, should, at the same time, by discarding what is of purely local consequence in Scotland, make room for statements of the progress of the Gospel in Canada, and of the success of the more important Missionary enterprises of Evangelical Christians of all denominations throughout the world. Hence the Lay Association have directed the publication of "*The Presbyterian*," and the Committee appointed to superintend it, have been required to attend principally to the

following points; first, the preparation of a monthly digest of such proceedings in the Presbyteries or Synod of Canada as are likely to prove of general interest, accompanied by remarks on the progress of our Church; second, the preparation of a chronicle, showing the nature, extent, and success of the Missionary Schemes of the Church of Scotland; third, the preparation of a similar account of the principal Missionary work of other Evangelical bodies; and fourth, the publication of short reviews or notices of new religious publications, accompanied by extracts, with other original matter for which space can be afforded. There is little scope, it will be observed, afforded for the display of originality;—indeed "*The Presbyterian*" aims rather at producing a faithful, though necessarily condensed, view of the labours of others, than at the production of original treatises or strictures on passing events, which may find a more appropriate place in other publications. It has been the earnest injunction of the Lay Association, and it is no less the desire of their Committee, to abstain from all unnecessary controversy in the pages of "*The Presbyterian*." If the Church, with which it is their highest pride and happiness to be connected, be attacked, they trust that they shall be enabled at all times successfully to defend her, and in language becoming Christian men. It appears to the Committee, that the evils flowing from recent unhappy events in the Church in Scotland, in Canada, and elsewhere, have been greatly aggravated by the numerous injudicious pamphlets with which the press has teemed. The original causes of difference have frequently been lost sight of, or

misrepresented, and the great argument begun for elucidating a high religious and national principle, has not unfrequently degenerated into a mere personal altercation and gladiatorial display. The readers of "*The Presbyterian*" will find in its editorial columns nothing that shall tend to increase, or to keep alive, this deplorable state of things. Those entrusted with its management, are more desirous of healing the wounds, which have been inflicted on the Church, than of tearing them open afresh. It is their firm persuasion, also, that, in the midst of fierce contending debates, the great fact has been not unfrequently lost sight of, that to the personal piety of its members are the prosperity and increase of the Church mainly to be ascribed. To produce an elevated tone of Christian character, and to excite a friendly feeling for the Missionary work throughout the world, by whatever truly Evangelical Church conducted, appear objects deserving the attention of all good men; and, should the Committee succeed, even in a limited way, in achieving these purposes, they will consider that their labours shall not have been in vain.

Should the pages of "*The Presbyterian*" be honoured by the perusal of some members of other Churches, the Committee feel that no excuse is necessary for the prominence which they will find given to all that relates to the Synod of Canada and to the Church of Scotland. Tenderly attached, both by conviction and sentiment, to these Churches of the Redeemer; remembering the long arrear of gratitude, which not only Scotland, but the whole Protestant world, owes to the National Church for her firmness in the dark days of oppression, for her