

163
3

THE PRESBYTERIAN RECORD

FOR THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

VOL. VIII

JANUARY, 1883.

No. 1

CONTENTS.

Frontispiece, view of Damascus.....	Ecclesiastical News.....	12
Map of Palestine in the time of Christ.....	Anniversary Missionary Meetings.....	14
Presbyterianism in 1882.....	Home Missions—Addresses.....	15
David Morrice Hall opening.....	French Evangelization.....	16
Sabbath-School International Lessons.....	Field Notes, letters from Missionaries.....	20
Our Own Church.....	Damascus.....	21
Presbytery Meetings.....	Literature.....	22
Obituary Notices.....	Acknowledgements.....	25

Presbyterianism in 1882.

BEGINNING with our own Church, we note with gratitude to God that more work has been done than in any previous year. Contributions to missions at home and abroad, and to congregational and educational objects have shewn a most encouraging advance. But there is no standing still; we must move onward, for Providence is constantly opening new doors of usefulness and bidding us enter. Especially striking has been the rapid multiplication of mission stations and congregations in the North-West. While much has been accomplished, it is evident that the work for 1883 will be very much greater. God grant us the courage and self-denial to do our due share of it!

Our sister Churches in the United States have devoted not a little time and much anxious thought to the subject of renewing fraternal relations. The bloody chasm made by the war has not yet closed. Churches should not be divided by civil conflicts, but they are very apt to be so torn asunder; and the rupture between North and South was most bitter. At the last Assemblies resolutions were passed favouring the renewal of fraternal relations, and although some of the leading Presbyteries still stand aloof, our hope and belief is that the spirit of brotherly unity is in the ascendant, and will prevail.

The Southern Church has bestowed much pains upon a new Book of Order. The

Northern Church has reorganized its Synods, making them the unit of representation in the General Assembly. The addition to the membership of the Churches has been sufficient to show healthy progress, while the sums raised for missions are largely in excess of previous years. The so-called "Higher Criticism" has caused a good deal of exciting controversy in the American Church, enough sympathy with the views of Robertson Smith being shewn to create alarm and to lead the Assembly to pass a series of monitory resolutions bearing on the subject. The United Presbyterians of America have been unfortunately divided and perplexed over the question of hymns and musical instruments in public praise.

The Churches on the other side of the Atlantic have been prosecuting their work with more than their wonted vigour. Home Missions in Scotland are pushed with such earnestness as to deserve the name of a new reformation. The liberality of the people does it all. It is not so long ago when deputations had to wait on the Government, entreating help in this direction; but the Government could or would do nothing. Now the Churches to which the bulk of the people belong add every year to the number of their stations and congregations. Large cities need all that can be done for them in this direction. Each of these Churches has within the year, in a practical and substantial way, shewn good will toward our own Church. The Presbyterian Church of Ireland also continues its kindness in word and deed. That noble body has felt in some measure the evils resulting from agitation carried on by means the most wicked and atrocious; yet the Irish Presbyterians show no retrogression. Their foreign missions are as large and well sustained as ever; and their gifts in aid of Colonial work are not di-