

This publication was looked upon as a real contribution to Canadian History and the Board of Education of Upper Canada purchased more than one-half of the whole edition as prizes in the Common Schools. His "Missionary Problem" was similarly honoured by the Hon. John Macdonald a leading member of the Methodist Church who purchased nearly the whole edition for distribution among the ministers of that Church, thus stimulating by his missionary zeal the life of the then largest Protestant religious community in Canada. Another valuable contribution to Canadian literature was his "Historical and Statistical Report of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland" in 1867. This work was the result of a year and a half spent in visiting every church and congregation of that denomination. Devoting himself unreservedly to this unique task, he lent his talents and energies without stint or monetary return, interviewing pastors and office-bearers, often times conducting services, addressing gatherings, encouraging Sunday Schools and heartening lonely and unbefriended ministers. His visits were an inspiration to the Church of his fathers. In this enterprise he gathered much experience that proved of great service to him when he became editor of the *Presbyterian*, and later editor of the *Record* of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. As editor of these publications MR. CROIL perhaps gave his richest and most enduring contribution to the opening life of Canada. Here he set himself the task of awakening and developing the missionary life of the Church. His facile pen gave life-sized pictures of many heathen lands in all the enormity and desolation of their moral and spiritual conditions. In this department it is not too much to say that he excelled all his contemporaries in the vividness of his portrayals and in the fervour and earnestness of his pleadings.

Principal John Marshall Lang of Aberdeen, writing in 1884, says of the *Record*: "It is really about the best church journal I ever see." The Church in Canada owes to him an immeasurable debt for his long and faithful service in this vocation. On his retiring from the editorship of the *Record* in 1891 the Committee in charge presented him with a cheque for one thousand dollars.