

THE
Home and Foreign Record
OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

JANUARY, 1870.

REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR.

GOD is at the helm: the world moves under His omnipotent and all wise guidance. When we look back over the twelve months that are gone, let us mark His footsteps and note with loving awe the wonders wrought by His hand. He crowned the year with plenty, giving rain and sunshine in their time. The earth yielded abundantly; and there is no lack of food for man and beast. The sea also yielded its wealth to our hardy fishermen; and those who do business across the great waters have not returned empty handed. Christians will gratefully acknowledge the hand of the Lord in all these benefits, and will be ready to show forth their gratitude by word and deed. The past year has been a healthy one throughout all our borders. No plague has come near our dwellings. From other distant lands the cry of famine reaches our ears; and we hear sad tidings of the devastations of disease.

In our own Church the past year will be remembered as that during which three of the Fathers in the ministry have been called away to their long home,—Messrs. Crowe and Sprott and McGillivray. In other respects it has not been an eventful year. As a Church we have enjoyed a blessed peace. Our congregations have increased in number and in strength. Our people have manifested their faith by their works. They have contributed liberally to the support of the gospel at home and to its extension in heathen lands. We doubt not that by God's blessing on the faithful labours of our Ministers, Missionaries,

Sabbath School teachers, and the Christian people generally, many souls have been gathered into the fold of the Redeemer. Many, too, have been called by our Head from the toils, fears, and sorrows of earth to rejoice with the Church triumphant in Heaven. Let us thank God for a year of quiet and prosperous work. Let us record our regret that we have not been more zealous, faithful and energetic; and pray for help for the days to come. Every one may see in his own life much that he deeply regrets and would gladly undo; every congregation has its sins of omission and of actual transgression. This is the time to review our short comings—to repair what admits of reparation and to resolve on better and nobler things.

Our Foreign Mission work presents no peculiar feature. Our agents are at the post of duty, or patiently waiting for strength to return to the battle. A sister Church has entered on the field with us, and, greatly to the joy of us all, a few months ago sent forth her pioneer Missionary, the Rev. John Goodwill.

Looking abroad beyond our own Church we see the hand of the Lord made manifest in the happy re-union of the Presbyterian Churches of the United States. The 12th November, 1869, deserves to be memorable in the history of American Presbyterianism, we may say of Protestantism,—for this is the largest re-union that has yet taken place in Evangelical Christendom. It was great in itself, but greater as the presage of what is yet to come. The United Assembly resolved to raise a