

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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THE CHURCH IN CANADA.

PROSPECTS OF THE CHURCH AT THE WEST.

From private correspondence we learn that, notwithstanding the considerable amount of temporary defection which occurred in the West, a returning affection to the Church of our Fathers is steadily and rapidly on the increase in that part of the Province.

One of the members of the Hamilton Presbytery (the Rev. Mr. McKid) recently spent better than three weeks on a Missionary tour through the Western part of the Province; and from what came under his observation it would appear that the reaction in our favour is very strong.

Even where the Ministers seceded, and used all their personal influence to carry the Congregations with them, it has been made manifest that, as soon as a Minister of our Church is settled, with ordinary pastoral diligence, a respectable Congregation will soon be rallied around him. Hamilton, Guelph, Fergus, and Dundas and Ancaster are cases in point. Take the last one for illustration. After the secession of their former Minister, they were for upwards of two years and a half without another; and the Dundas branch of the Congregation was for the whole of that time almost entirely without a supply of ordinances. At the time the call for their present Minister (the Rev. Andrew Bell) was first brought before the Presbytery, it was sent back for want of the necessary number of signatures required by the Synod. And now Mr. Bell reports having

ascertained in the course of his pastoral visitations that there are more than double that number of families (from 80 to 90) connected with the Congregation and professing adherence to the cause. There are now about 110 members in full communion. And, when he dispensed the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Dundas in February last, about a year after his settlement, although the weather and the roads were both unfavourable, there were about 80 actual communicants at the Tables, and the Church was so crowded that many people had to go away without being able to find accommodation. The Congregation, although not of course so large on ordinary Sabbaths, is still respectable in number and steadily increasing.

PRESBYTERY OF BATHURST.

The Presbytery of Bathurst met at Smith's Falls on the 6th day of March last, for the purpose, *inter alia*, of taking the steps, required by the laws of the Church, for releasing the Rev. G. Romanes from the Congregation of Smith's Falls, and translating him to the Professorship of Classical Literature in Queen's College, to which he had some time ago been appointed by the Trustees of that Institution.

Several members of the Congregation were present at the meeting, and expressed great regret at losing a Pastor so efficient, and so highly esteemed by the Congregation, as Mr. Romanes was, and more especially as by his departure the Congregation is left vacant and without any near prospect of a Minister. This they felt to be very injurious to the interests of the Congregation in its present circumstances. Viewing

Mr. Romanes's appointment, however, to Queen's College as one of great importance to the general interests of the Church in this Province, they gave a reluctant consent to his translation, and, in doing so, requested the Presbytery to write to the Colonial Committee urging the strong and peculiar claims of the Congregation, and soliciting the exercise of the Committee's influence in procuring for them with the least possible delay a suitable successor to Mr. Romanes. A Petition for this purpose, numerously signed by the Members of the Congregation, had previously been forwarded to the Rev. Mr. Fowler of Ratho in order to be laid before the Committee. We sincerely hope that the great Head of the Church will soon provide for this important and interesting Congregation a man after His own heart to make known to them His will for their salvation and break unto them the bread of life.

The following Extract from the Minutes of the Presbytery will show the estimation in which Mr. Romanes is held by the Brethren of the Presbytery:—

"The Presbytery, at the same time, resolved to record the high estimation in which they held their brother Mr. Romanes, and the strong sense of the loss which they sustain in his departure from them. Connected with the Presbytery almost from its formation, his piety, his talents and obliging disposition have enabled him to render important services to the interests of this Church and of religion generally within the bounds of the Presbytery, and have gained for him the regards of the Members of the Presbytery, and of the Presbyterian community generally throughout the District. The Presbytery, however, rejoice in Mr. Romanes's appointment to the influential office which he now fills in Queen's College, believing that it will conduce greatly to the interests of the Church and of sound education in this Province, and they assure him of their brotherly affection and best wishes for his usefulness and happiness in this life, and for his bliss and glory in the life to come, as a faithful servant of the Lord."