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PREFACE.

THE year 1875 is expected to be a memorable year in the history of Presbyterianism in the Dominion of Canada. This year, as is now fully expected, will witness a union of the four Presbyterian Churches of British North America, and will thus constitute a new and important era in their history. The occasion seems a favourable one for beginning the publication of a Presbyterian Year Book for the Dominion of Canada, to be continued henceforward from year to year.

The Year Book is intended to be a handy book of reference on all important matters connected with the Presbyterian Churches of British North America; a means, further, of spreading information among Presbyterian people, as to the history, work and prospects of Presbyterianism in this land and in other lands; as a beginning also in the work of collecting statistical, ecclesiastical and historical materials, that may be useful in after times as a contribution to the history of the Presbyterian faith in this section of North America; and as an offering, lastly, from Canada to her sister Presbyterian Churches throughout the world, for the work, already begun, of ascertaining the strength of Presbyterianism in Christendom, of bringing its scattered branches to know each other better, and of uniting them in such work as may be common, and possible to both.

The Year Book, therefore, contains a calendar marked with days famous in Presbyterian Church history; the officers and members of the four Churches now negotiating regarding Union; the Presbyterian Colleges in the Dominion, with names of Professors and subjects of study; sketches of the origin and progress of some of our leading Presbyterian Congregations; a glimpse of the branches of the Presbyterian family in other parts of the world; obituaries of Presbyterian Ministers in Canada deceased during the past ecclesiastical year; together with short articles on Presbyterian topics of practical interest, such as Presbyterian Literature in the Dominion, Pastoral Sustentation Fund, Mission Work, and Ecumenical Council of Presbyterian Churches.

Correspondence was opened up with leading men in various countries for obtaining official documents and personal information, and we have now to return sincere thanks to the Clerks of the Supreme Courts of all the Presbyterian Churches in the Dominion, in the United States, and most of the Churches in Great Britain and Ireland, for their prompt and polite attention in forwarding the Minutes and Reports of their respective Churches for 1874. It is matter of regret that our limited space forbids a fuller use of the interesting and important collection of Presbyterian Blue Books that lies on our table. Special thanks are due to Dr. Edwin Hatfield, of New York, and Dr. Donald Fraser, of London, for assistance; also to Dr. Blaikie and Dr. McCosh, for indicating sources of information, and to James Croil, Esq., Montreal, the Rev. Wm. Reid, Toronto, and the Rev. Robert Murray, Halifax, for contributions and corrections.

Correspondents will much oblige the Editor by pointing out any inaccuracies they may observe, and supplying additional information in regard to such matters as Presbyterian literature and history of congregations, so that this Book may become, year by year, more correct and more complete.

TAS. CAMERON.

CHATSWORTH, ONT., Dec. 14th, 1874.

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