

The Record.

Vol. 1. No. 1. 1859.

COLLECTION FOR FRENCH CANADIAN
MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

In accordance with the appointment of the Synod, the usual collection will be taken up in all the Congregations of the Church, in behalf of the French Canadian Missionary Society, on the third Sabbath of the present month. It is desirable that as much regularity as possible should be observed in regard to this collection, and all the synodical collections, and that they should be remitted to the General Office of the Church, at as early a date as possible.

The operations of the French Canadian Missionary Society have been before the church for many years. They are still carried on, not without real fruit, and tokens for good, in the several departments of preaching the word, teaching the young, and the circulation of the Bible. Several Churches have been formed, embracing those who have been led to renounce the darkness and the errors of Popery, and no doubt there are many others scattered abroad, either among their fellow countrymen, or elsewhere, who have derived saving benefits to their souls through the means employed by this Society, and who may, in their own spheres, be instrumental in bringing others to the enjoyment of similar blessings.

The following is a general summary of the Society's operations from last year's Report and shows, at most points, marked progress.

"The scholars taught last year, at the Institutes and Mission Stations have been 281; the regular attendance at the meetings for Public Worship may be estimated at 500, and converts in church fellowship at one hundred.

The Stations occupied by the Society, are ten, besides places where meetings are occasionally held.

The number of Missionaries engaged in the work is 25, besides the converts and pupils of Pointe aux Trembles, occasionally employed in tours of colportage. French Tracts, Bibles and New Testaments have been widely circulated. There is great difficulty in giving reliable statistics as to the number of persons who have left the Church of Rome through the instrumentality of the Society, as many who are converted to Christ remove either to the United States or Canada West, to escape persecution. We are, however, within bounds in stating, that considerably above a thousand have embraced Protestantism in connection with this Society's efforts since its establishment in 1839. The youth who have received more or less of a good secular and scriptural education cannot be less than 800; these, with scarcely an exception, have embraced Protestantism, and are in various localities with more or less distinctness letting their light shine before their benighted countrymen."

The income of the Society for the past year

was \$10,049, of which \$7532 was derived from Canada, Montreal alone contributing \$2471. The disbursements were:—Education (chiefly for the Pointe aux Trembles Institute) \$5365; Evangelization included; Grants to Churches at Montreal and Belle Riviere, &c., \$756; due colportage, \$1661. The miscellaneous charges were, for printing, rent, &c., \$581. General Secretary and agents \$1715. Making in all, \$10,048.

We have, as a church and a community, a deep interest in the religious instruction and the spiritual enlightenment of the inhabitants of Lower Canada. We trust therefore that, as on former occasions, the collection will be taken up in every congregation, and that it will be a liberal one.

TIDINGS FROM EUROPE.

Both in the department of Politics and in that of religion proper, there is much to interest. We would look with the eye of Christian patriots on changes of Cabinets, and the collisions of Nations. We sympathise with the concern for Protestantism which sees in the fall of the Derby Administration matter for thanksgiving, if indeed, as has been alleged, it has been playing into the hands of Popery, whether in its domestic or foreign policy. If it can disavow having truckled to the Pope by positive promises, at least it appears the priesthood hung on it great expectations.

In the field of bloody strife, liberty so far seems to gain the advantage, though the event is yet to be disclosed. Observers already mark the providence by which the system of persecution and tyranny in some parts of Italy has melted away, and thousands of Christians may now freely exercise their religion where before they had to worship God in terror and in concealment.

Said a speaker in the Free Church Assembly—Sheriff Jamieson—in noticing a communication from the Presbytery of "the North of Italy"—"He did not think there was anything so remarkable in the history of the wonderful movements of the present year as the extraordinary event in Tuscany, where blast and rumour reached the tyrant, and he fled without even a drop of blood being shed." We are glad to see our friends at home taking advantage of the crisis and resolving to cultivate the opening field. The Edinburgh Bible Society is sending a large supply of Scriptures into Italy, for circulation among the natives, and perhaps among the soldiers of the French Army. Not less do we rejoice to hear that the brethren of the Vaudois Church are alive to the importance of the occasion, and ready, as Dr. Candlish expressed it, with the spirit which animated their forefathers, to go down to the plains of Italy, and there preach the Gospel of God.

It is with different feelings we must look at the communications of our Government with India, if the latest enunciation of Lord Stanley's plans is to be taken as the exponent of

its policy. It is melancholy to think that so recently as in April last, the instructions sent out to Lord Canning, go to hinder the Bible from being introduced into the Hindoo schools. We cannot believe that a British Legislature will sanction such a policy, and we are gratified to observe public sentiment already bearing on this great interest, through the channel of united remonstrances both from churches holding in our sense the doctrine of national responsibility and from others. Earnestly do we hope that the wise suggestions of Sir John Lawrence, will yet mould our Indian Legislation; and how incumbent is it on us all, instructed by God's recent judgments, to ask of Him who hath the hearts of princes in His hands, that He may turn them to righteousness, as He doth the rivers of waters!

REVIVAL IN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND.

Very affecting and full of promise are the recent accounts of spiritual revival in the old country! There are unmistakeable tokens of the gracious operations of the Spirit of God in various districts of Scotland and Ireland. In the former, Aberdeen and adjacent parts attract devout attention; in the other, Ulster in its northern and eastern parts.

The awakening in Ireland seems to be on a large scale. In various places, old and young are simultaneously affected by the Word of life; prayer-meetings are formed; the ordinances of religion sought after with avidity; churches crowded with earnest worshippers; and—best of all—undeniable proof exhibited of the reality of conversions, in the abandonment by many of their wicked practices as well erroneous opinions. This religious movement is specially observed in Ballymena, Ballyclare, and Ahoghill. Belfast too, is stirred, and fathers and brethren there, whose names are familiar to us, are early and late engaged in meeting and guiding the excitement.

From Ahoghill Rev. Mr. Adams writes:—"Here the work of the Lord advances rapidly and powerfully. Even the profane cease to scoff; many of them begin to admire and adore"

From Ballyclare reports another—"We went to a prayer-meeting, and truly I cannot understand it. The scene baffles description. Imagine a large meadow, with an immense multitude of people, in all attitudes, some praying, weeping, and crying for mercy; others lying in utter helplessness, only able to utter feebly their entreaties for pardon, surrounded by groups of friends and strangers, all interceding for them, and urging them to call on Christ; and again, others with their faces beaming with a more than earthly light, listening to the speaker with rapture, or, with eyes raised, eloquently praising God: fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, tender children and strong men, the tender infant of a few years and the grey haired woman, all equally struck all equally and inexplicably earnest. The Public Houses are empty all through the town."

"On Sabbath last," says the Banner of Ul-