

John Mackenzie

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.

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No. 9, September, 1855.

VOLUME VIII.

Price 2s. 6d. per annum.

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AN INCENTIVE TO THANKSGIVING.

While as a Church we have recently been deeply afflicted, yet as a people have we cause for much thankfulness to the great Ruler of Events. In His mercy we are permitted to hear the sound of war afar off, and to rest "with none to make us afraid." In his goodness the pestilence, that walketh in darkness, and which last summer visited so many dwellings, hath not been suffered to come nigh our borders. Our country is enjoying a large measure of material prosperity, and now a bountiful harvest is rewarding the labours of the farmer and crowning the year with fatness. Let us give our united thanks then to the great Jehovah for all His goodness, and, while thankful for earthly benefits, let us pray fervently for a time of spiritual refreshing to our Church and people, and, while more instant in prayer, may we labour earnestly in that corner of the Vineyard that hath been assigned to us.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Psalm ciii. 2.
 9. Thou visitest the earth and waterest it; Thou greatly enriches it with the river of God, which is full of water; Thou preparest them corn, when Thou hast so provided for it.
 10. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly; Thou settlest the furrows thereof; Thou ma-

11. Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness, and Thy paths drop fatness.
 12. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness, and the little hills rejoice on every side.
 13. The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing. Psalm lxxv.

THE RELIGIOUS CENSUS OF THE PROVINCE,—ITS INACCURACIES.

Our attention having been drawn to the volumes containing the result of the Census, we were struck with the exceedingly imperfect manner in which the RELIGIOUS CENSUS had been taken by the Enumerators. The total population of Canada West by the Census appeared to be 952,004, (in, say 1851, for the Census is in fact the Census for that year). The Anglican appears there to be the predominant denomination—the numbers being 223,190, the Church of Rome 167,695, Wesleyan Methodists 96,640. The Church of Scotland is set down at but 57,542; but great injustice is done to it, as will presently be shown. Free Presbyterians are ranked at 65,807 and other Presbyterians at the large number of 80,799! Thus, on the showing even of this Census, the Presbyterian bodies collectively number 204,148; but we are quite convinced that their numbers are much more considerable. It is well known that there are now three prominent bodies

of Presbyterians, the Presbyterian Church in connection with the Church of Scotland, the Free Church and the United Presbyterian Church. In the next Census we hope a column will be appropriated by name to each of these bodies, and care taken to allot their respective adherents to each Church, so that the large numbers assigned to the sweeping head of "Other Presbyterians" may be properly distributed. We presume one reason of the number under this heading being so large is that the popular answer of members of our Church to the Enumerators interrogating them would be "I am a Presbyterian." But, as we have already stated, we are thoroughly convinced that, while the enumeration of the Presbyterian bodies is inaccurate, with reference to our own body it is grossly so. In Hamilton City, for instance, the returns do not show a single adherent of our Church; in London the return is the same; in Bytown but 198; in the extensive county of Waterloo none; in Frontenac none; in the rapidly settling county of Bruce but 65; in Lambton 146. In the county of York again the Census credits us with no adherents, though the contrary is so manifest, while no less than 9159 are set down under the accommodating head of "Other Presbyterians." But we have shown that very slight dependence is to be placed on it with regard to Upper Canada. Let us turn to Lower Canada