

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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Subscribers to THE PRESBYTERIAN, who have not remitted payment of the past year's Subscription, are respectfully and urgently requested to send the same, along with a remittance for the year 1852, THE PRESBYTERIAN being payable in advance.

CHURCH IN CANADA.

REPORT OF THE LADIES' TRACT SOCIETY

In connection with St. Andrew's Church, Bytown, for the year ending 30th August, 1852.

Another year has passed away since a statement of the affairs of this Society has been submitted to the members. There is little, however, that is new, to communicate. In the six districts, which comprise the whole of this Town, the tracts have been regularly distributed every month. New Edinburgh has likewise been attended to by Ladies residing in that district; and it has been considered advisable that one of the Elders should henceforth take charge of the families in Gloucester near his own place of abode.

Tracts have also been sent to the Establishment of Messrs. Gilmour & Co., on the river Gatineau, to Nepean, and, in short it is believed, to every place where persons are to be found professedly belonging to the Congregation. In several instances, moreover, tracts have been given to others at their own request; and it is especially worthy of notice, that we have good reason to believe that a considerable number, forwarded to the shanties on the Ottawa during the course of last winter, were not only cordially received, but eagerly read, not by Protestants alone, but also by Roman Catholics. One proof of this we have in the fact, that a ruffian has given half a dollar to the funds of the Society.

It is not necessary that we should say

any thing as to the manner in which the tracts have been generally received. Every distributor, we are persuaded, is prepared to bear her testimony to the cordiality of that reception with which she has met.

The Treasurer has on hand the sum of £8 2s. 3d. It is to be observed, however, that this is the whole of the contributions towards the Society for the space of two years; and, the stock of Tracts being nearly exhausted, it will be necessary to take steps immediately to obtain an additional supply.

Such are the few facts we have to lay before you at this time on the subject of our proceedings; but, although few, they are not unimportant. The truth is: We are too much in the habit of estimating the importance of means, which may be employed for promoting the religious interests of our fellow-creatures, according to their magnificent aspect, or the extensive appearance which they outwardly present to us. But there is a different principle laid down in the Word of God, a principle directly the reverse; and the principle is this, that the Most High very often confers signal and remarkable blessings on means which appear to us to be unimportant, and that just that the excellency and the glory may be more clearly seen to be of God and not of ourselves; that all the results which succeed may be attributed exclusively and altogether to the free and sovereign grace of Omnipotence. He, who employed the little captive Jewish maid to bring the Syrian captain to the door of the prophet, has often been pleased to honour the feeblest means with astonishing success. The pebble from the brook, when guided

by Him, becomes a more efficient weapon than the warrior's tried and trusty sword. So it has been with Tract Societies. They have sometimes been honoured with blessings, which have been withheld from more splendid institutions or more magnificent machinery; and therefore they may with truth be regarded as a very important means of grace, as a valuable instrument for the propagation of the Truth, for doing the work of God. It would indeed be against all history and all experience to suppose that the bread thus cast upon the waters would not be given back in a rich and blessed harvest.—“Not by might nor by power, but by My Holy Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts.”

At the same time it may be remarked that, whilst the distribution of Tracts is well calculated to spread a knowledge of the Truth, and thus to bring glory to God, Tract distributors may lay their account for not a few discouragements. They need not expect that their zealous endeavours will altogether escape censure. Their good may be evil-spoken of, or their motives may be traduced. Still those, who are true to the cause of the Redeemer, will not allow this to deter them from doing a good work. If they have learned to form any thing like an adequate estimate of the dignity of the Saviour's character, and if they themselves have experienced the value of the Truth, a sense of the loving-kindness of their Redeemer, and a desire to express gratitude to Him for His mercy, will excite them to active exertion in His cause. And for their encouragement they may bear in mind that there is One who knows the difficulties with which they may have to contend, who also