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"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem! let my right hand forget its cunning."—Psa 137, v. 5.

### The Past, Present, and Future of Queen's College Missionary Association.

[We have received, for publication, an excellent Address delivered on 15th April last, before the above Association, by its President, John McMillan, B. A., B. D., but have been reluctantly compelled to curtail it, to meet the large demands on our space this month.—ED. M. R.]

GENTLEMEN,—Considering my position as President of your Association, two things especially are incumbent upon me on the present occasion, viz.: 1st, to thank you for the honour you have conferred upon me by electing me to that office; and, secondly, to present an humble apology for my delinquency in not giving the customary Address long ere this. With the knowledge that I have been prostrated in sickness by the visitation of an over-ruling Providence, and burdened by severe labors, I claim your forgiveness for past shortcomings and for the meagreness and imperfection of these simple and hurriedly-written remarks.

It is not a little astonishing that we are all disposed to dwell only on the present, to look but little to the future, and to disregard the past almost altogether. While, however, many are prone to forget the origin of their honour and prosperity, and, overwhelmed in the concerns of the present, to disregard the guiding hand of Providence in the various steps that led them upward to the hill of fame, God forbid that we should forget the rock whence we were hewn,—the little band who met in 1850 to form our As-

sociation, now so influential for good, and the struggles, trials, and labors of our predecessors to establish, in this our Alma Mater, a society whose influence might be felt in the most remote corners of our land, by its members speaking words of comfort to those who mourn in Zion, by their guiding erring sinners back to the peaceful fold of their Redeemer, and by their pointing all men to the Cross of Calvary and the fountain of Immanuel's blood. On the other hand, while we are in no great danger of being too little engaged in the present, we should ever have an eye to the future, and remember that what we do now will form a precedent for future generations.

Pardon me, therefore, gentlemen, while I detain you in making a few remarks upon

"OUR PAST, OUR PRESENT, AND OUR FUTURE."

More than fifteen years ago, on Jan. 15th, 1850, the first decisive steps were taken by a few of the students then attending our Alma Mater to organize a Missionary Association; and, judging from the resolutions adopted by them, they must have been men of ardent piety and unwearied zeal, for they felt themselves in duty bound to give evidence of their gratitude to Almighty God for the religious and social privileges they enjoyed, "by exciting themselves more energetically for the advancement of His cause in the world." Would that their spirit, in a tenfold degree, animated us to encounter and overcome any difficulties that may oppose us in our proclamations of a Redeemer's dying love! When we read the records of the meetings of the originators of our Associ-