

THE
ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD,
 For the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

VOLUME I.—No. 11.

HAMILTON, JUNE, 1845.

[PRICE, 2s. 6d. PER ANNUM.]

THE RECORD.

The documents of general interest to the church which will be found in this No. of the *Record*, together with the more important items of religious intelligence which have reached us during the past month—have completely pre-occupied our columns, and we are therefore constrained to defer the insertion of some remarks and suggestions which we had intended to offer on certain topics, until a future occasion. In particular we intended to direct the attention of our readers to the measure recently introduced by the Ministry into the British Parliament, for the permanent endowment of the Popish Ecclesiastical Seminary at Maynooth, in Ireland—a measure which, as it amounts to a direct and deliberate countenancing and establishing of anti-Christian error and corruption, and is universally understood to be the prelude to the general endowment of the Romish hierarchy in Ireland, deeply concerns every one who understands aright the nature of national responsibility, and would avert the national guilt and danger which it evidently involves. We can only express our hope that the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and other Evangelical bodies in this section of the Empire, will not overlook the duty incumbent on them in respect to this matter, nor imagine that they may remain silent and inactive on the occasion, merely because their voice may not now reach Parliament before this ill-omened measure has been sanctioned by them.

We observe, with interest, the progress of the movement in Scotland for the removal of those religious tests requiring the Professors in the Universities to be members of the Established Church. These were originally imposed principally for the purpose of excluding prelatists from office in these institutions, but they are now practically employed for expelling from them men who constitute their chief ornaments, and who holding firmly by the Standards of the Church, have only withdrawn from its communion because of its departure from their Standards and the gross Erastianism by which it is characterised.

By a reference to the report of the proceedings of the Presbytery of Toronto our readers will be gratified to learn that the Rev. Dr. Burns has been inducted as Minister of Knox's Church, Toronto. We congratulate his congregation on having obtained a pastor of so much ability and experience, and we heartily welcome him to this part of the Christian vineyard, wishing him abundant success and comfort in his labours therein. We have pleasure in stating that of the two sons who have accompanied the Dr. to this country, one has returned to devote himself to the ministry in the Canadian Church, having already passed one session in the Divinity Hall of the Free Church. Dr. Burns was introduced to his congregation on Sabbath the 25th ult., by the Rev. Mr. Esson, who conducted the services in the forenoon of that day, Dr. B. officiating in the afternoon and evening. It has been omitted in the report of the Presbytery's proceedings, that Dr. Burns and Mr. Rintoul were appointed to visit the congregations in Esqueping, which they agreed to do about the middle of this month. The Rev. Mr. Arnot, of St. Peter's Free Church, Glasgow, came out by the last Mail Steamer, and is to succeed Mr. Bonar in the charge of the congregation at Montreal.

Mr. Bonar we are glad to understand is to visit the Western part of the Province before his departure for Scotland.

We refer here to the very interesting account which Mr. Rintoul gives of his recent Missionary tour, for the purpose of stating with reference to a suggestion which he has therein made to us, that we hope to be able at an early date to present our readers with the admirable address of the Rev. Mr. Bayne, of Galt, delivered at Hamilton on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the Presbyterian Church in that place. It will be found fully to supply what has been long felt by us as a desideratum, viz., a clear and comprehensive statement of the grounds on which our separation from the Scottish establishment became necessary.

We are requested to remind the ministers of the Presbytery of Hamilton, that they will be expected to report specially, at next ordinary meeting, as to the number of principal or Sabbath day preaching stations required for the reasonable accommodation of the people within the several Missionary Districts assigned to their superintendence; and that it is therefore important that in visiting their respective Districts, they obtain the necessary local information to enable the Presbytery to determine the stations which ought to be thus recognised. It will be found of much consequence to the advantageous application of Missionary labour, that these stations be judiciously selected and permanently fixed.

LETTER FROM THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, having, as members of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connexion with the Church of Scotland, long stood in close and friendly connexion with you, and having now separated from that Synod on account of her refusal to terminate such connexion with you, and having also formed ourselves into the "Presbyterian Church of Canada," deem it due to you, formally to acquaint you with these facts, and to put you in possession of the grounds on which we have acted.

With this view we beg to transmit to you the following documents, viz:—1st. A copy of an overture which, while members of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connexion with the Church of Scotland, we desired that that body should adopt at their meeting in July last. 2d. Copies of Protests entered into by us against the decision of that body respecting that overture; and 3d. A copy of a Pastoral Address issued by us in August last.

In these documents you will find, we conceive, all that is necessary to enable you to understand both the course which we have pursued, and the reasons by which, in adopting that course, we have been influenced.

We are deeply sensible of the responsibility involved in the dissolution of old and once cherished connexions, and in the adoption of a new and separate ecclesiastical organization; but acting on the grounds set forth in these documents, we are satisfied in our own consciences, that in what we have done, we have only pursued the path of duty, and humbly but confidently cherish the hope, that our procedure is justified in the sight of heaven.

It has not been without much sorrow of heart, that we have been constrained to assume the position, in which we now stand towards you. In every step we have felt us men acting under a most painful necessity. Yet at the same time, we have acted without hesitation or doubt, and under the full persuasion, that a regard to the honour of the great Head of the Church, and to the interests of vital godliness, in Scotland, in Canada, and throughout the world, called upon us thus to lit up a testimony against your procedure in the matters connected with the disruption—a procedure which has done far amongst you a large proportion of the *talent and piety* of Scotland, has given the followers of Christ throughout the world, and has given occasion to the enemies of vital godliness to blaspheme.

And now in making this communication, we desire it to be distinctly understood that our dissolution of friendly communion with you, has been resolved upon, and is still adhered to as the most solemn testimony which we had it in our power to bear against the practical Erastianism with which we hold you to be chargeable, and against that abject submission to the intrusion of the civil power into the ecclesiastical province, by which we consider you to have sold the liberties of the Church of our father, and virtually to have denied the sole headship of the Redeemer ever her.

As yet a comparatively small body, and situated in a distant colony, our testimony may perhaps be regarded by you as of little moment. Yet we unshrinkingly submit it to your consideration, as at least disinterested and conscientious, and the result of anxious and prayerful consideration, both of your conduct and of our own duty, and as presented not in the spirit of arrogance, but in reliance on the force of truth, and the power of that Spirit which can render effectual the humblest instrumentality. We would, in conclusion, solemnly call upon you, as brethren whom, notwithstanding the cessation of friendly communion, we still love, and for whose spiritual welfare we still pray:—to reconsider the course which you have pursued, to examine, as in the presence of the great Searcher of hearts, how far you have allowed yourselves to be influenced by the love of an evil world, and to adopt such measures as a single-hearted zeal for the maintenance of the divine rights of the Redeemer, under the blessing of God, in healing the breaches of our national Zion.

Brethren, we commend you to God. That He may direct you by His Holy Spirit into that which is according to His will, and may render you instrumental in promoting the great end which we both profess to have at heart—even the glory of our common Lord, is and ever shall be our earnest prayer.

In name and by appointment of Synod,
MARK Y. STARK,
Moderator

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

This Presbytery held their ordinary Meeting at Hamilton on the 14th and 15th ult. The Ministers present were Messrs. Stark, Gale, Bayne, Mackintosh, Meldrum, Lindsay, and Snellie, and the Elders, Mr. Kyle of Dundas, Mr. Drysdale of Hamilton, The Rev. Dr. Blanchard, of Peham, in the Presbytery of Niagara, and the Rev. Mr. Johnstone, from the Presbytery of Ohio, being present, were invited to