

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.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
THE PRESBYTERIAN.		THE CHURCH IN THE LOWER PROVINCES.		NOTICES OF BOOKS.	
Statistical Returns,.....	169	The Synod of N. S. (Concluded,)....	173	Illustrated Family Christian Almanac	
THE CHURCH IN CANADA.		Public Meeting of Friends of Church of		for the U. S. for 1856,.....	183
The Commission of Synod,.....	169	Scotland, in Halifax,.....	177	Canadian Messenger and Journal of	
The Calcutta Orphanage and St. Andrew's Church S. S., Hamilton,..	170	Sabbath School Picnic, Halifax,.....	180	Missions,.....	183
The Congregation of Kitley,.....	170	THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.		SUBSCRIPTIONS.	184
Death of the Hon. Thos. McKay,.....	170	The Glasgow Mission at Scutari. (Con-		ADVERTISEMENTS.	184
Letter from Rev. George MacDonnell		tinued,).....	180		
Fergus,.....	171	COMMUNICATION.			
		Memoirs of the Haldanes, (Continued.)	182		

No. 11, November, 1855.

VOLUME VIII.

Price 2s. 6d. per annum.

The Presbyterian.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

Information as to the extent of the membership of our Church and the number of our adherents, as well of those gathered into congregations as of those yet unprovided with spiritual ordinances, would prove of much service. Were such an ecclesiastical census once accurately obtained, the annual returns would prove interesting, useful and instructive. Now telling of advance and progress, and stimulating to exertion, here showing removals by death, and again chronicling additions to the roll of members from the ranks of the young or the indifferent; such details would mark the history of the Church. In order to effect this, a Committee of the Synod might be charged with the duty, and their annual report would be looked for with interest. It might include a statement of the sums contributed by each congregation to the support of the Pastor and to the various schemes of the Church, and to Church or Manse erection. The exhibiting for instance of such facts as those relating to the increase in Church membership of certain of our congregations, recently referred to in our columns, would not fail to prove encouraging to the whole Church. Henceforth our Church must be in the main a voluntary Church, and therefore the present is the proper time for considering what measures will best conduce

to the maintenance of her efficiency, and evince her adaptation to the change in her circumstances. Amongst these measures, at some of which we have already glanced, and at others design to glance from time to time, we consider this matter of *Statistical Returns* important, and trust to see a Committee charged by the next Synod with their collection, and cordially supported by the Church in the efficient performance of their duties.

THE CHURCH IN CANADA.

COMMISSION OF SYNOD.

The Commission of Synod met according to appointment on the 3rd of October at Kingston. There were present Doctors Machar, Barclay, Williamson and Skinner, Messrs Urquhart, George, William Bain, Mowat, Macdonnell, MacLennan, Burnet and McKerras, Ministers, and Judge Malloch and Mr. Mowat, Elders.

Professor Williamson was appointed Moderator, and, in the absence of the Clerk through severe illness, the Rev. Mr. Mowat was chosen to act as Clerk.

An application from the congregation at Litchfield to the Colonial Committee for aid in paying off the debt on their Church having been laid before the Commission for its approval, it was agreed to remit it to the Presbytery of the bounds to be prepared for being laid before the Synod at its

next meeting accompanied with a certified copy of the title-deeds.

The Commission appointed Dr. Skinner and Mr. J. B. Mowat a Committee to draw out and transmit to all the congregations a Circular upon the subject of the collections for the College Buildings, urging the punctual payment of the instalments still due by those congregations which have already subscribed, and calling the attention of such as have not yet subscribed to the imperative duty of making prompt and liberal contributions to this very important object.

There was read a letter from Mr. John Whyte in reference to the sentence of suspension passed upon him at the last meeting of Synod. Several Members of Synod, in whose neighbourhood Mr. Whyte has been living, and who have had opportunities of becoming acquainted with his demeanour since last meeting of Synod, were heard regarding his conduct in his domestic relations during that interval. Mr. Whyte was also heard in further explanation of his views and feelings.

After a long discussion the following motions were proposed.

It was moved by Mr. Burnet and seconded by Dr. Skinner: That, inasmuch as the decision of the Synod contemplated the removal of the suspension of Mr. Whyte whenever the Commission had received satisfactory evidence of his having fulfilled the recommendation of the Synod, expressing repentance for the past and as