

INTRODUCTORY.

THIS Report will be found to contain historical facts of interest, and it embraces statistical returns, more or less complete, from every Congregation of the Church. It had been easy to produce a more flattering and highly coloured statement, but this would not have advanced the end contemplated—the welfare of the Church. I have been careful to exaggerate nothing, “nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice;” my single aim has been to render what follows thoroughly reliable. Notwithstanding what is advanced in respect of inadequate support to ministers and missions—this is deplored in all Churches—on the whole, we have reason to “thank God and take courage.” Our Church occupies an honoured position among the Churches of Canada, and has a large number of warmly attached adherents, who are able and willing to do all that may reasonably be asked of them if the proper means are employed to enlist their practical sympathies.

For the information herewith submitted I am mainly indebted to the Ministers and Office-bearers of the Church. I thank them, every one, as well for their great personal kindness as for their willing co-operation with me. Dr. Mathieson laid me under special obligations by placing at my disposal valuable manuscripts, and supplying details that could not have been otherwise obtained. Mr. Dobie gave me the benefit of his experience as Convener of the Committee on Statistics. The Professors of Queen's College kindly supplied all the information given about that Institution, and our obliging Synod Clerk, besides assisting in other ways, furnished me with the histories in M. S., bearing date 1833, of most of the Congregations then existing, of which I am only sorry that the limited space at my disposal prevented me from making more copious extracts. I thank the Very Reverend Principal Snodgrass, for his *great patience* in carefully revising these pages for the Press, for his corrections and reproofs, and for access to the well-filled shelves of the Library of Queen's College. The following works may be mentioned as possessing a historical interest in connection with the Church: Letters, by the Rev. William Bell, and by his son, the Rev. Andrew Bell, published in 1824; The Canadian Magazine, in 4 volumes, 1823-25; the Canadian Review, 2 vols., 1824-25; The Canadian Miscellany, the first periodical published in the interests of the Church of Scotland in Canada, and of which only six numbers appeared in 1828, the copy in the library being the only one I have seen; the Christian Examiner and Presbyterian Review, 4 vols., 1837-40, which was conducted by the late Dr. McGill, then of Niagara; A Retrospect of 36 years' Missionary Labour, by J. Carruthers, 1861. Each of these