

# THE MONTHLY RECORD



OF

THE

Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and the adjoining Provinces.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—PSALM 137, v. 5.

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## ECCLIASTICAL INTELLIGENCE.

### Moderator's Address to the General Assembly.

The remaining matters of business were referred to the Commission, and the Moderator delivered the following valedictory address to the Assembly :

*Right Reverend and Right Honorable:* You have now brought your labors in this Assembly to a close, and, by your appointment, I am about to dissolve it. Before leaving the Assembly, however, I take the liberty, in accordance with custom, to address you in a few parting words. My heart constrains me to preface them by an expression of my warmest acknowledgments for the distinguished honor which you were pleased to confer upon me by elevating me to this office. For this deeply gratifying proof of your kind partiality, I beg to tender you my most respectful and cordial thanks. I humbly crave your forgiveness, at the same time, for the very imperfect manner in which the duties of the chair have been performed. I am myself sensible of numerous shortcomings, and I cannot but fear that many more have escaped me. To the kind indulgence which has borne with them all, I hold myself deeply indebted; and I beg to assure you that the grateful sense which I entertain of it will never be effaced from my heart. Yet permit me to say, in my own defence, that I have come short of your just expectations, only because I was unable to fulfil them. It is not for me to pronounce judgment on the decisions to which you have been guided on the various important matters that have come before you. You have given to those matters your best attention, and I doubt not that, when you proceeded to decide upon them, you sought to have a single eye to the interests of righteousness, and truth and charity. In dealing with cases that could not fail to excite your deepest interest, your deliberations I have observed with unfeigned satisfaction, have been uniformly conducted in a spirit and

temper becoming the character of a court of Christ's Church. In judging between opposing interests, it has been your steadfast endeavor, I feel assured, to judge not for man, but for the Lord; and, having this persuasion, I think myself warranted to cherish a comfortable hope that the results at which you have arrived will be blessed in their fruits. I congratulate you on the fact that no case has been before you affecting the status or character of an office-bearer of the Church, or requiring the exercise of its discipline. Let us hope that a spirit is coming more and more to pervade the Church, which will render of rare occurrence cases of the painful character to which I have now alluded. I beg to congratulate the Assembly, also, on the deep interest which it has evinced in the educational and missionary enterprises of the Church. It surely peculiarly befits an Assembly of Christian Ministers and Elders to take earnest counsel together for extending the kingdom of the Lord and Master. It was His own last injunction to his disciples, when He was parted from them to be taken up into Heaven, that they should teach repentance and remission of sins in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. The solemn primary function, therefore, of the Christian Church of any country, is to diffuse the light of the Gospel, beginning with the inhabitants of that country, among every people to which it can obtain access. If the right ordering of its own administration has a still prior claim on its attention, the ground of this claim is the obvious fact that it is only a rightly administered Church that can efficiently discharge the functions of a Church—that can be entitled, in truth, to the name of a Church. A right administration is thus the means—the necessary means—of furnishing a Church for the discharge of its function; but that function still is to teach and to preach the Gospel to the increase and edifying of the body of Christ. In this view I respectfully submit there are just grounds why I should con-

gratulate you on the deep interest which you have evinced in the educational and missionary enterprises of the Church, and also in the large portion of your time and attention which you have been enabled to apply in consulting for the advancement of those enterprises. It is of the goodness of God that your whole time and attention have not been necessarily occupied otherwise, and especially that it has been put into your hearts to prefer the increase of Christ's Kingdom above your chief joy. It is surely a token for good to our Church—an earnest of her being increased with the increase of God—that, for not a few years past, Assembly after Assembly has shown itself pervaded by this missionary spirit, each evincing a deeper interest than its predecessor in the diffusion of the Gospel both at home and abroad. Nor is it only in our several Assemblies that a Missionary spirit has revived. The life current has flowed from the heart to the extremities, and, happily, the parishes are now but few in number which have not had experience of its vivifying influences. As regards the Education Scheme of the Church, though much has still to be done to supply an adequate educational training for the whole youth of the country, enough has been accomplished to convince us that the task which we have proposed to ourselves in this scheme is perfectly practicable. It appears from statistical returns, on which the fullest reliance can be placed, that we now require but a comparatively small addition to the number of existing schools, to enable us to occupy every destitute district. The provision of additional schools, it is true, is not the only expense to be incurred. We must elevate, at the same time, the office of schoolmaster, by attaching to it such a salary as shall be suited to its importance. It is not to be denied that the accomplishment of the latter object will involve a considerable change. Still, if we reflect on what has already been accomplished by the scheme, we have not only no reason to despair, but abundant reason to