

would urge them, as they regard the glory of God and the happiness of their households, besides erecting an altar of prayer, to send up the incense of praise to the God of families.

In many congregations, also, this duty is sadly neglected. For this various causes might be assigned. In some cases the qualifications of the preceptor are so defective, that parties who understand music, refuse to follow his guidance. In some cases, the style of singing is so refined, that a general congregation can scarcely be expected to accompany the leader or choir. But perhaps the chief cause is a general indifference to religious matters, which leads congregations, among other things, to neglect the practice of sacred music. We believe that it is as much the duty of congregations to prepare themselves for singing, as it is of the minister to study to preach. We would, therefore, most earnestly recommend to all ministers, elders, and others interested in the prosperity of the church, to take active measures to have all who are capable of learning, and especially the young, instructed in the art of singing. By such a course, with the blessing of God, there is reason to believe that a revival of religion in our several congregations would be greatly promoted, and thus the Church on earth be more closely assimilated to the Church in heaven.

Belleville, April 16th, 1857.

W. G.

#### QUARTERLY REPORT OF PRESBYTERIAN SABBATH SCHOOL, PICTON.

Average number of scholars in attendance	66
" " " absentees..	19
" " " on the Roll..	85
Number of new scholars admitted.....	33
" left and gone to other parts of Canada.....	1
" of scholars on Roll at commencement of quarter.....	64
" of scholars on Roll at end of quar	96
" of teachers.....	22
" " admitted.....	4
" of visits made to various families.	115
" " made to various families who do not attend any Sabbath School.....	12

#### BIBLE CLASS.

Number of scholars on Roll.....	34
Average number in attendance.....	25
Number of scholars attending Sabbath School.....	96
Number of scholars attending Bible Class.....	34
In all.....	130

Scarletina, and other diseases of children, cold, and the winter weather, have caused a much larger non-attendance than is usually the case.

**MINISTERS FROM SCOTLAND.**—The Rev. T. Alexander, formerly of Cobourg, is expected in this country by the end of May. Mr. Huie, of Perth, is also expected about the same time.

**THE ELECTIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN.**—It is believed that the friends of religious freedom and of sound Protestant views, will be much more numerous in the New Parliament than in that lately dissolved. The Sabbath question has not been brought forward prominently, but it would appear as if the leaders of the party opposed to the strict observance of the Sabbath, were ashamed of their cause. Sir J. Walmesley promised to cease from his efforts to assimilate the British Sabbath to that of the Continent but he has, notwithstanding, been defeated.

#### Office of Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record, &c.

The Office of the *Record* and of the Schemes of the Church, will now be found in Yonge Street, East side, second door from Richmond Street.

**THE RECORD.**—All possible care is taken in addressing and mailing the *Record*. Should any irregularity occur in any quarter, in the receipt of the *Record*, intimation should be sent at once to this office, in order that the irregularity may be remedied.

All communications connected with the *Record* and the Several Schemes of the Church, to be addressed to "REV. W. REID, OFFICE OF THE MISSIONARY AND ECCLESIASTICAL RECORD," 106, Yonge Street, Toronto.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications intended for the *Record* should be in the Editor's hands by the 15th of the month.

## The Record.

TORONTO, MAY, 1857.

#### THE ANNUAL STATISTICAL RETURNS.

Blank Schedules have been sent to all the ministers of the Church. We trust all these will be immediately filled up and returned directly to Rev. Simon C. Fraser, White Lake P. O., Ottawa. It is of real importance that these returns should be promptly and carefully attended to. They are important because when correctly and carefully prepared, they present a trustworthy synopsis of the actual condition and standing of our several congregations, and of our Church as a whole. They are important too, because on them may depend the action and legislation of the Synod. They are to be made up this year to 1st of May, instead of 31st, in order to give time of having them collected, arranged, and printed in time to be laid upon the table of the Synod. We trust there will be none who will neglect the injunction of Synod with reference to the matter.

We would beg too, that all moneys for the various synodical objects be remitted without delay, as it is most desirable that all collections for these objects should appear in the statement to be presented to the Synod by the Agent. In order to appear in this statement remittances must be made on or before the 31st May.

Lest the blank schedule should not reach, or should be mislaid, we mention the various items in regard to which information is required. 1. Designation of congregation. 2. Name of minister. 3. Number of families connected with congregation. 4. Number of members. 5. Additions by examination. 6. Additions by certificate. 7. Diminution by death, removal, &c. 8. Number of Elders. 9. Deacons. 10. Managers or Trustees. 11. Diets of worship, morning and afternoon. 12. Average attendance. 13. Pastoral visitations. 14. Week day lecture or prayer meeting. 15. Average attendance. 16. Number on roll of Sabbath-school and Bible classes. 17. Volumes in Congregational Li-

brary. 18. Volumes in Sabbath-school Library.

**Financial Return.**—Amount paid to Minister, or in case of vacancy, amount paid for supply. 2. Sources of Support. 3. Amount contributed to College—ordinary Fund, and Building Fund separately. 4. French Canadian Mission. 5. Buxton Mission and Synod Fund. 6. Foreign Missions. 7. Widows' Fund. 8. Presbytery's Home Mission Fund. 9. Bursaries. 10. Manse and Glebe, and Value. 11. Value of Church. 12. Debt on Church and Manse during year. 14. Amount expended on Library. 15. Miscellaneous Collections. 16. Total Congregational Contributions.

#### THE RECORD.

The present number is the first of the latter half of the volume. The subscription for the remaining portion of the volume will be in 104d, to new subscribers.

On looking over our lists we find in some congregations, many subscribers who are in arrears, some for several years. This is not so much the case in newer congregations, as in some of the older ones. The subscription list is such now, that it ought to yield a very considerable return, and thus benefit the funds of the Church. This, however, is in a great measure prevented by the irregularity with which many pay. We earnestly request all who are in arrears to remit. If there is an Agent, let payment be made to him. If there is none, let subscribers remit in registered letters the amount due. All such letters will be at our risk.

#### A SYNODICAL SUPPLEMENTAL FUND.

The Christian Church is a progressive institution. To be true to her great commission and to her position, the Presbyterian Church of Canada must be eminently such. On every side new townships are opening before the woodman's axe, and large villages and towns of great prospective importance are rising amid the still standing forest. To provide gospel ordinances for those places is the imperative duty of the Church. And if we wish to do our part successfully, we must be on the ground as soon as any other denomination, if not before them. Not a few places may be pointed out, where for lack of early provision made by our church, Presbyterians have lapsed into indifference, and their children have become Episcopalians, Methodists, and Baptists; and now there is no door open for us, and we must enter the field as the unwelcome rivals of existing churches.

In many new settlements, the Presbyterians are few in number and comparatively poor, so that some, when disposed to do their best, are unable to pay a minister's salary. Many around them are opposed to Presbyterianism, and others are quite careless people who have no desire for ordinances, and would grudge a dollar for any religious purpose. In these circumstances a few well inclined persons may make an attempt, but they fail, and again sink down discouraged to wait. Meanwhile, other denominations are actively at work. The indefatigable Methodist preacher is there, and supported if necessary from another quarter,