

THE PRESBYTERIAN RECORD

FOR THE
DOMINION OF CANADA.

Vol. XI.

FEBRUARY, 1886.

No 2.

CONTENTS.

	Page		Page
Then and Now.....	29	Ecclesiastical News.....	41
Home Mission Committee—West.....	30	Temperance Notes.....	42
Augmentation and Home Missions.....	31	Work in the North-West.....	42
Women's Home Missionary Societies.....	31	Foreign Missions—N. W. Territories.....	43
Missionary Cabinet—St. Patrick.....	32	Do. do. Formosa.....	44
International Sabbath-school Lessons.....	34	Do. do. Trinidad.....	44
Our Own Church.....	35	Evangelistic Meetings in Montreal.....	45
Manitoba Items.....	37	Literature.....	51
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.....	37	Official Notices.....	51
Meetings of Presbyteries.....	39	Page for the Young.....	52
Obituary Notices.....	39	Acknowledgments.....	53

Then and Now.

IT is the 20th November, 1839. The mission vessel *Camden* has sailed through a portion of the New Hebrides group, leaving native teachers on several islands. The ruling spirit on board the *Camden* is the heroic, devoted, adventure-loving JOHN WILLIAMS,—a man of benignant face and soft, lustrous eyes gleaming under black brows. For the last two nights he has been hardly able to sleep one hour, owing to his intense eagerness to plant the standard of the cross on island after island of the benighted group. Calm seas, sunny skies, lovely landscapes: what could be more entrancing! The fearless missionary lands on the shores of Erromanga, thus accomplishing an object he had in view for many years. Accompanied by Mr. Harris, he enters into conference with the savages. Shortly, however, he finds that they are moved by the deadliest hatred: they are resolved to kill the men who have toiled and sacrificed and ventured all for their salvation. In seeking to regain the boat, John Williams and James Harris fall, the first Christian martyrs on Erromanga. Their mangled bodies are cooked and eaten at a cannibal feast. On the 20th May, 1861, James Nicol Gordon and his wife, who have spent four arduous years on Erromanga, fall under the assassins'

stroke. The men whom they had helped and healed, and to whom they had pointed out the Way of Life, become their murderers. Another brave and true man, James D. Gordon, brother of the "second Martyr of Erromanga," volunteered to fill the post so cruelly made desolate. He seeks to avenge a brother's blood by pointing the savages to the "Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world." Some listen to the Message and become true disciples. But, once more, the missionary of the cross falls under the fatal stroke of the assassin. JAMES GORDON fell in his own study, as he was engaged in translating the Holy Scriptures, on the 25th February, 1872.

And now let us come down to 1885. A missionary, the *Rev. Hugh A. Robertson*, with whom many of our readers became acquainted and to whose narratives they listened with delight within the past two years,—lands on Erromanga, after an absence of nearly two years. What is his welcome? The moment it becomes known that he is on board the "*Dayspring*," the boat is manned and the principal men of the island hasten to meet him. Crowds escort him and his wife from the beach to the house. Day by day for weeks they flock from far and near to welcome him. Women carry their babes twenty miles to join in the welcome. Presents of all that the natives value most, and all that is of use to