

# THE PRESBYTERIAN RECORD

FOR THE  
DOMINION OF CANADA.

VOL. XIII.

OCTOBER, 1888.

No. 10.

## CONTENTS.

	Page		Page
Family worship.....	253	In Quebec.....	287
The Spanish Armada.....	254	Algonia.....	287
Missionary Cabinet, Mrs. Gobot.....	254	Manitoba and North-West.....	288
French Evangelization, Rev. C. A. Doudiet.....	256	British Columbia.....	270
Household Words.....	257	Maritime Provinces.....	270
International Sabbath-School Lessons.....	259	Lumberman's Mission.....	271
Ecclesiastical News.....	261	Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund.....	273
Our Own Church.....	263	Trinidad Mission.....	273
Obituary Notices.....	265	New Hebrides Mission.....	273
Our Home Missions.....	266	Missionary Outlook.....	275

### Family Worship.

THE family is the foundation of the whole social structure. It is of Divine institution, and He who created it gave directions for the observance of family religion. Hence we find, all through the Bible, the patriarchal system, under which the head of the family became responsible for the godly upbringing, not only of his own children, but of every one in his house.

Burns in his immortal poem, "The Cottar's Saturday Night," has given us a beautiful and faithful portraiture of the custom generally prevalent in Scotland in his time,—

The cheerfu' supper done, wi' serious face  
They round the ingle form a circle wide;  
The sire turns o'er, wi' patriarchal grace,  
The big Ha'-Bible, ance his father's pride:  
His bonnet reverently is laid aside,  
His lyart haffets wearing thin an' bare;  
Those strains that once did sweet in Zion glide,  
He wales a portion with judicious care;  
And "Let us worship God!" he says, with  
[solemn air.

How it is in Scotland now in this respect we do not know; and how it is with the descendants of Scotchmen in Canada, judging from the tone of the report on the State of Religion, presented to last General Assembly, it seems to be difficult to ascertain,

but it is to be hoped that the references made to this subject by the committee may have the effect of inducing many who have become careless in this regard to realize the importance and the blessed privilege of family worship. If the time-honoured family altar is allowed to fall into decay, there is reason to fear that family religion is retrograding too. An esteemed correspondent refers to that part of the above-named report, which deals with this subject in substance as follows:—

"What steps, if any, can be taken to remedy this sad state of affairs? The Bible is not read daily in even families of church members! Why is this so? Is it because there is no course of reading provided? I would ask your interest in support of *The International Bible-reading Association*, which prepares and circulates a selection of passages of Scripture for every day in the year, intended chiefly to illustrate the International Sabbath school Lessons, but which may also serve for family worship. There are already, some 200,000 members enrolled in this association, of whom 3,000 are in Canada. Specimen copies of the readings, in English and in French, may be had on application to Mr. James MacNab, secretary for Ontario, Bridge street, Toronto, Ontario."

Strange to say, *The want of time* is a more common excuse than any other for the neglect of family worship, and yet a very little reflection should suffice to convince the busiest of men that a few minutes