

# THE Home and Foreign Record

OF

## THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

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### OCTOBER, 1863.

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#### THANK-OFFERINGS.

God has now brought us to the close of another Summer. He gave us the great rains, the gentle showers and the ripening sunshine, all in due season. Our barns are filled with plenty; and although there may have been failure in this or that crop yet on the whole, we have abundance of bread; we may think upon Famine as a dismal, cold shadow which has not yet risen above our horizon, and the sun warm-shining scatters not plague-arrows. Who can number the countless mercies of our lot! No blood drenching our fields; no brothers killing brothers; no wives widowed untimely by the sword; no orphans wailing for fathers slain in battle. Peace and abundance in all our borders! "Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: Praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

How shall we show forth our gratitude to God for his abundant mercies? Mere lip-homage is useless, is abominable: the SEARCHER OF HEARTS wants above all things the heart. My son, give me thy heart! Mortal man's heart could not be in safer, better keeping!

With your heart you must give him the willing service of your hands. He hath need of you: place yourself at his disposal. perhaps you can be useful as a Sabbath-school teacher—as a visitor of the sick and afflicted ones of the flock—as a dispenser of alms. We need not suggest how you may make yourself useful for God: but whatever you do let it be done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and so shall it prove holy and acceptable.

Members of God's old church had special offerings to give at this time of the year when the harvest was gathered in. We dare not lag behind *them* in willingness and liberality—for the Head of the Church has blessed us in His Providence far above the most favoured of Abraham's children in their Promised Land.

What if all our Farmers were to give a Tenth of all they have gathered from their teeming fields this year? This would bring them up to the old tide-mark of the Jewish Church. We dare not expect such liberality yet. How sad a confession this to make in the nineteenth century and in a christian land! Shall we not live to see a brighter day? Think how easily God could have added a Tenth to all your treasures; and how easily could he have withdrawn his share which you may be unrighteously holding back from him. In one week He allowed the destroyer to marmore than one tenth of your Potato crop: He could have permitted all to be swept away in one fatal night!

We should never forget that we are altogether in the hand of God: our prosperity