

THE
HOME & FOREIGN RECORD
OF THE
CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

No. 3.

JANUARY, 1867.

VOL. VI.

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

We write at the close of the old year, and before our readers' eyes shall have rested on this page, we shall have entered on the year 1867. To beings hasting to eternity, every moment is precious and important ; but there is special solemnity connected with the thought, that another year has passed with all its privileges, and blessings, and opportunities, with all its events, its cares, its sorrows, its joys, its hopes and fears, and that we are entering on another year, the close of which many of us may never see. It becomes us to remember that our time is both short and uncertain, and that whether our work is done or not, we mean the great work for eternity, the time for doing it may very soon come to an end. May we be all diligent, earnest, and devoted, working while it is called to day, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

We have many mercies to acknowledge at the close of the year 1866, public and national mercies, family and personal mercies. The invasion of our peaceful land by unreasonable and wicked men was repelled, although at the cost of precious and valuable lives. The scourge of pestilence has been kept from our borders. The fears of our farmers were happily disappointed, and our Province has been blessed with a large measure of prosperity. We acknowledge God's hand in all our mercies, and we earnestly trust that, as He has been mindful of us in times past, He will bless us for the time to come.

Great and momentous events are in the future. We are on the eve apparently of a great political change in these British North American Provinces. May the guidance and the blessing of God be vouchsafed to our rulers, both here and in the parent country, and may the change be ever ruled for our growing advancement and consolidation, as a peaceful, united, loyal, and God-fearing people.

Throughout the world, great events both in the religious and civil departments are evidently impending. Some things look dark. While the temporal power of the Pope seems to be almost gone, the spirit of Popery is creeping into many quarters in Britain, where formerly it dared not show itself. But there is one at the helm, who can turn aside every danger that may threaten His church, and who will cause her to appear fair as the morn, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners. Let us trust Him, and see that personally we are cleaving still more closely to Him ; and then, whatever changes, or revolutions, or conflicts may be before us, all shall be safe and well at last.

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HOME MISSION FUND.

Attention is directed to the notice from the Convener of the Committee, which appeared in the December number of the Record. It is understood that, in general the contributions in aid of this fund will be through missionary associations, or by subscriptions. Where a collection is given it should be taken up at once. The day formerly appointed was the 3rd Sabbath of January. It is hoped that funds will be remitted without delay.

A REVIVAL NEEDED, AND WHAT IT WOULD ACCOMPLISH.

Many things indicate very plainly, and very painfully that a revival is needed in the church. We need a revival to draw forth, from among our younger christians, candidates for the christian ministry. In almost every church in Britain, as well as here, and perhaps in none more than in our own, there is a lamentable lack of labourers. Congregations are vacant; missions are languishing, ground remains unbroken which might be cultivated, just because labourers are few. It is not that there is a scarcity of young men, for other professions and departments of work are overstocked. For any vacancy in connexion with business, there are scores or hundreds of applicants. In part, the scarcity may be attributable to the very inadequate stipends which ministers receive, and the trials and difficulties with which ministers have to contend. But were there a revival of religion, were the young men of our congregations to be brought powerfully under the influences of the Holy Spirit, undoubtedly more of them would be led, in spite of difficulties and privations, to give themselves to the work of God, and to the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We need a revival too, to counteract the strong tide of worldliness which is setting in, especially in our towns and cities. We feel that the question of amusements for the young is a difficult one, and we do not mean to say that everything of the kind is wrong, and is to be put down. But, taking the most liberal view of the matter, it must be admitted that our young people are in great danger of being led into habits and practices to which their fathers and mothers were not accustomed, and which, especially in the extent to which they are indulged in, cannot but prove unfavourable to the growth of true piety, yea to the growth even of that sober-mindedness which we would like to see characterising our sons and daughters, who in a few short years, if spared, will be men and women, the workers in the church, and in the world, the parents, the trainers, and guides of another generation. Balls, yea and the card-table will be found in quar-

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR KNOX COLLEGE.

We acknowledge, in the present issue of the Record, a number of contributions for Knox College, and we trust that congregations that have not yet collected and remitted will do so as soon as possible. The time fixed by the Synod is 'not later than 1st February.' We may state that the classes, in regard to attendance and every thing else, are highly encouraging. Although a number have gone elsewhere to finish their Theological course, there are in actual attendance in the Theological department thirty-three, fourteen being in the senior class, while the number of students taking a full University course with a view to enter Theology is greater than ever it has been. Several students who began the study of Theology are, in the meantime, finishing their university course, and will again resume their studies in Knox College. In the preparatory department 12 have passed their examinations before the Board of Examination, most of them being in attendance at University College. In addition to these, a number of young men have already intimated their intention of entering the college next year. We trust that an increasing number of young men will, from year to year, be found coming forward for the work of the ministry.

EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION.

On the 25th day of January, for the second time in Canada, a Protestant Prelate was consecrated. The consecration of Bishop Bethune possessed, however, even greater interest to Christians belonging to other Churches than that of Bishop Lewis, inasmuch as, to use the language of the able and eloquent preacher on the occasion, there was then "witnessed for the first time in the annals of our Church, the consecration of a Colonial Bishop without either Patent or Mandate from the Crown. Then the last link was severed of that chain which had hitherto bound us to the State." We are glad to read the remarks of Archdeacon Patton in this connection, shewing as they do a healthy and joyous feeling in being freed from trammels under which the Church of England is labouring, and which have caused much scandal, as well as prevented the exercise of godly discipline. We hope that the Episcopal Church of England in Canada is entering on a career of prosperity, in the maintenance of true Protestantism and Evangelical doctrine.

This event has attracted no little attention, and it may be of use to pass under review the doctrines and principles of Church polity which have been so ably set before the public by the preacher, as the doctrines and polity of the Episcopal Church in Canada.

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APRIL, 1867.

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FOREIGN MISSION COLLECTION.

As it may have escaped the notice of some, that the Foreign Mission Collection this year was fixed for the third Sabbath of March, in consequence of the change in our ecclesiastical year, we trust that it may be taken up as early in April as possible, and still included within the year.

With a very little effort a much larger sum might be realized than has yet been reached by us as a Church. The small amount of ten cents a member does surely not express to the full measure the depth and intensity of our interest in this great cause. We would wish to disabuse any who may entertain it, of the impression that we have abundance of funds on hand. All that our people can contribute, and more, will yet be needed, if we are to rise to the level of our duty and responsibility. We stand fully committed to the great work of carrying the Gospel to the Aborigines of the North-west. The first year's expenses of this Mission (which is in a very hopeful condition) will be very considerable. The comparatively limited outlay of the past two or three years has exceeded the receipts, and had it not been for the accumulated fund on hand, we would have been involved in debt. There will henceforth be increasing demands on our benevolence, which we feel satisfied the Church will be ready to meet. Recent accounts from Nanaimo and New Westminster are encouraging, and the work at Red River progresses favorably.

Wherever the mode of contributing by subscription and through Missionary associations is not adopted, let the Foreign Mission Collection be remembered, and every congregation and Mission Station do their duty in the matter.

Let our faithful brethren, amid their self-denying work, be sustained and encouraged by the fervent prayers and enlarged liberality of all our people.

R. F. B.

AWAY.

NO. IV.

Our Sabbath Day religious services, which I neither described nor concluded in last number, came to a close in the ordinary way. Why should I have entered on particulars? Take it for granted that there was the worship of God in the most harmonious mixing of Episcopalian and Presbyterian services and forms. Neither prelates nor presbyters, confessions nor articles, had their eyes on us, and we were none the less true Catholics

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A PLEA FOR THE MINISTRY, AS A LIFE WORK.

Allowing for the just attractions of all those professions, which are merely secular, I claim for the ministry of the Word a superiority over them all. It presents a wider range of thought to the intellect, and imparts a new interest to the investigation of truth. Here all that is great in thought and pure in pleasure—"the power of exerting the largest influences for the highest purposes"—the full feast to a noble mind of an ambition as holy as its rewards are immeasurable—an ambition which finds more sweetness in work for the eternal salvation of men than in building a pyramid, or creating an empire—all meet and embrace each other. Here a regenerated soul accomplishes the most for God, attains the end for which his piety, his endowments, and his being were given him; finds the choicest banquet for his spirit and the most perfect peace for his conscience.

But some one will say—Do you expect me to turn my back upon houses and lands, and deliberately to decline all the fruits and rewards of modern civilisation for an office generally associated with poverty and persecution? Yes, verily; I beseech you to reckon rightly. Put into one scale all that secular pursuits, when most successful, can give; and in the other the "hundredfold more in this present life and in the world to come—life everlasting"; and you will perceive that, compared with the donations of grace, the imperial riches and magnificence of the earth are nothing. I do not know and cannot conceive what everlasting life shall turn out to be. I know it to be something which shall place me by the side of Christ, at the head of creation, and that, as a joint-heir with Him, I can never, to all eternity, have a superior; while the constituent elements of my bliss, as my spirit stretches towards the Infinite, shall be such as God only can communicate and know. But with regard to the hundredfold in this life which my Master undertakes to give me, I can see that it means light, love, beatitude, nearness, repose, the consolation of the spirit—a mine of spiritual wealth, a throne of spiritual honour, in comparison with which all that this green earth holds or contains is poor. Oh, what a life that must be in which you have nothing to do but serve Christ, but glorify Christ, but imitate Christ! Is it worth living for anything else than that "all our strength, our breath, our life, our faculties should be consecrated, devoted, and crucified for the service of the Lord Jesus?" Is not this crucified life, filled with Christ and transformed by the Spirit, very happiness, as well as the mainspring of usefulness? Happiness, usefulness, character—these three sum up all attainable good on earth; and it is in the production of these that the profession of the ministry exists.

1. Happiness. What is it? It is the conformity of the soul to Jesus

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THE DUTY OF THE CHURCH IN REGARD TO THE INCREASE
OF HER MINISTRY.

It is sometimes said that in Canada, taking all the religious denominations into account, we have too large a supply of ministers for our population. Regarding the general question thus raised, it is not, at present, necessary to make any affirmation; but certainly the *Canada Presbyterian Church* has not too many ministers,—not as many as she could well employ and as she urgently requires. For want of labourers many parts of her heritage are imperfectly cultivated, and much ground which she would wish to occupy has hardly been touched at all.

But had we a sufficient number of young men in training for the ministry, this great evil of which we complain, might soon be remedied. Here again, however, we have to note deficiency. The number of our candidates for the ministry is much too small both to fill the places of ministers who are being removed by death, and to extend the church in degree commensurate with the wants of an increasing population. We, in common with nearly all the churches, both in Britain and in America, which demand an educated ministry, are mourning our inability to find a sufficient number of students; for all who take an interest in this subject are aware that Presbyterians and Episcopalians are finding the same difficulty here; and that the Theological Seminaries of the Free and the United Presbyterian Churches in Scotland and of the great Presbyterian bodies in the United States are attended either by absolutely fewer students, or by fewer in proportion to the size and requirements of their respective denominations, than they were some years ago.

Were our object in this paper to show that the position and prospects of our own church, are not, in regard to the important interest spoken of, worse than those of other churches, a very good case might, we are satisfied, easily be made out. For while the churches referred to, on this and on the other side of the Atlantic, have been declining in the number of their students, ours has exhibited some measure of increase; and this in spite of circumstances which place us at a disadvantage as compared with those churches. There is no reason, therefore, why we should despair of our church as regards the object to which attention is being directed, even the securing of an adequate supply of students.

But we are not, at present, occupied in seeking material for self-congratulation or self-vindication; and these last sentences have been expressed chiefly in order to prevent that paralysis of hope in regard to our situation, which would hinder us from making any hearty effort to improve it.

With respect, then, to the general fact that the churches have so great

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AUGUST, 1867.

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MINUTES OF SYNOD.

The Minutes of Synod have been forwarded for all the congregations in the Church. Parcels for the congregations in the Presbytery of Montreal have been sent to Rev. A. Young, Montreal,—for those in Presbytery of Ottawa, to Rev. W. Moore, Ottawa, and Rev. S. C. Fraser, White Lake,—for those in Presbytery of Brockville, to Rev. W. Ferrie, Brockville,—for those in Presbytery of Kingston, to Rev. T. S. Chambers,—for those in Presbytery of Cobourg, to Rev. D. Waters, Port Hope,—for those in Presbytery of Ontario, to Rev. J. R. Scott, Whitby,—for those in Presbytery of Guelph, to Rev. J. Middlemiss, Elora,—for those in Presbytery of Hamilton, to Donald McLennan, Esq., Book-seller,—for those in Presbytery of Paris, to Rev. W. Cochrane, Brantford,—for those in Presbytery of London, to Mr. W. Clark, London,—for those in Presbytery of Stratford, to Rev. W. Doak, Avonton,—for those in Presbytery of Huron, to Rev. A. D. McDonald, Clinton,—for those in Presbytery of Grey, to Rev. W. Park, Durham.

It is hoped that parties who receive packages of Minutes will endeavour to forward them to the several congregations as soon as possible.

Ministers in the Presbytery of Toronto will receive their parcels of minutes at the first meeting of Presbytery.

THE RECENT MEETING OF SYNOD.

In our last number we were unable to make any remarks on the proceedings of the late Synod. Our readers will have seen reports of the proceedings, and will have formed their own opinions with reference to them, so that it is of less consequence now to dwell upon the subject. We take the opportunity, however, of very briefly referring to the late meeting and its proceedings.

Many things in connexion with the recent Synod cannot be regarded but as very gratifying and encouraging. The number in attendance was more than usually large. The increase of the ministry and the general prosperity of the church, financially and otherwise, as reported by the Committees on Statistics and Finance, were such as to call forth our deepest gratitude. The spirit which prevailed, notwithstanding various subjects of a delicate and perhaps somewhat irritating character, was excellent. We have reason to thank God for all this. The results will, we trust, through the over-ruling power of God, be for good to the church in coming years.

The interest connected with the meeting of Synod, (and we must say we have never seen so much interest in the proceedings of our Supreme

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COLLECTION FOR WIDOWS' FUND, AND FUND FOR AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

The second collection in the Synodical year—that for the Widows' Fund, and Fund for Aged and Infirm Ministers—is appointed to be made on the 3rd Sabbath of September. This is a collection, which, we believe, commands itself in a peculiar degree to the feelings and sympathies of our congregations. Last year the sum of \$2180 was paid to the widows and orphans of deceased ministers, and this year two additional families are on the fund, making the entire number 18. The sum of \$580 was also paid on account of aged and infirm ministers; and, since the Synod, one additional claim has been presented, making in all five ministers receiving annuities from the fund.

When no particular instructions are given, the collection is divided equally between the two objects.

We trust that the collection will be as usual, generally attended to, and that the amount will be liberal.

VACANCIES AND PROBATIONERS.

Returns have now been received from all the Presbyteries of the Church, shewing that the following number of vacancies are looking to the Home Mission Committee for Probationers to visit them with a view to immediate settlement.

In the Presbytery of Montreal.....	5	Presbytery of Hamilton.....	1
do. Ottawa	5	do. Guelph.....	1
do. Brockville	2	do. Paris	1
do. Kingston	3	do. London.....	9
do. Cobourg.....	1	do. Stratford	4
do. Ontario.....	4	do. Huron.....	1
do. Toronto ...	6	do. Grey	3

making in all forty-six vacancies to be supplied.

The Probationers who have reported themselves as requested, and are on the list to receive appointments are, Messrs. Bates, Bauld, Dawson, McLennan, Milligan, Meikle, W. Scott, Wright.—*eight* Probationers reported as wishing to visit vacancies.—Besides these, the licentiates from other churches, and the students lately licensed by our Presbyteries will, in all probability, report themselves during the next month, as desirous of being appointed to vacancies so soon as their present engagements in the Home Mission field have expired. These may be eighteen or so in number. This will give *twenty-six* probationers for *forty-six* vacancies.

In these circumstances it seems better not to make appointments ex-

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COLLECTION FOR KANKAKEE MISSION.

A collection in aid of the Kankakee Mission (Rev. C. Chiniquy's) was appointed by the Synod to be taken up on the 1st Sabbath of November. The present engagements of the Church in connection with this Mission are (1st.) \$1,200 for teachers in the Mission School, and (2nd.) such a sum as will, with the contributions of the people, make Mr. Chiniquy's salary \$1,000. We direct attention to Mr. Chiniquy's communication in another column, with reference to the extent and necessities of the Mission. The collections are to be remitted to the treasurer at Toronto.

THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEW DOMINION.

Within the last few months great and important changes have passed over us. We have emerged from a state of tutelage, and have assumed a position not indeed of independence, for we are thankful to say that we are still part and parcel of the Great British Empire and subjects of our Queen, beloved and revered by all her subjects,—but still a position of higher political and national existence. We have, to a certain, extent a separate establishment, while still under the protection and kindly eye of the Parent. We now form a large and growing confederation, with a wider field for enterprise, and a higher stimulus to energy, in the development of the varied resources of our country. At the same time, we shall have the benefit of a more direct control and regulation of our own domestic affairs. The change, through which we have been passing, is one no doubt fraught with important results; and we have not been indifferent onlookers, but have felt a deep interest in the progress and completion of the confederation movement, and in our first exercise of the rights and duties pertaining to us as citizens respectively of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and of the Dominion of Canada. After all there is a close connexion between the moral and religious progress of a community on the one hand, and its physical and political advancement on the other.

The new state of things has now been inaugurated. We have our confederate and our local governments, and legislatures, and we look with interest and with hope, not unmingled with anxiety, for the working of the new machinery. We desire to see, at the commencement, a high-toned public morality, characterising those at the head of our affairs, our legislators both in the confederate and local legislatures, and a high standard of principle and of honor for the regulation of the acts both of the rulers and of the ruled, both of the legislators and of the electors. It is of great consequence that we begin well, for it is easy to degenerate, but more difficult to rise to a higher standard.

We confess that already we have been in many things greatly dis-

appointed. We are not going to refer to party politics. But we must say that many things have occurred to disappoint us, and fill us with apprehension for the future. There have been charges of corruption and bribery at many of the recent elections, charges so broadly made that we fear they must be regarded in many cases as undeniably true. We deeply regret that these things should be. They show a great want of moral soundness in all who are concerned in them,—alike in those who use such means to obtain a position, and in those who are capable of being influenced by such means. We lift our testimony against such practices. We trust we shall never hear so much about them for the future, but that they will be frowned down by all honorable men of every party.

Now that our representatives have been chosen, they will do well to bear in mind that they will stand in a more prominent arena than they ever did before. We hope they will be more than formerly under the influence of a sound, healthy, public opinion. We have heard of things, on the part of some of our leading men, even in the halls of our legislature, fitted not merely to grieve the hearts of christians, but to humble any right thinking man. We observe that some of the newspapers have referred to those things, declaring that there must be an end of such scenes, and that intemperance can have no place in the halls of legislation. We trust that it will be so, and that our rulers will realize the responsibility of their position, and regulate their conduct accordingly.

We trust that the blessing of God will be upon us as a people. Without His favor and blessing, nothing can be good or successful, or really prosperous. Let us pray for our rulers, that they may be directed and guided by Him ; and that our future course as a people may be marked by a higher regard for His word, and a higher appreciation of His favor. "Happy is he people whose God is the Lord."

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HOME MISSION.

On another page will be found a full account of the Home Mission Committee's operations. Now that they are reduced to system and form, it is to be hoped that Presbyteries will, through their official representatives, keep the Convener of the Committee duly informed of all changes in Vacancies and Stations, occasioned by settlements or demissions; also that Probationers will give immediate notice of their wish to have their names removed from the list. The next distribution of Probationers will be made in January, and unless notified that the name is to be removed, appointments will be made for all on the list for the next quarter, in terms of the Synod's requirements.

It will be seen that the payments ordered for Missionary labour during the summer are very large; and as the grant hitherto received from the Church in Ireland has not reached the Treasurer, there are not funds in hand to meet the orders of the Committee. It is earnestly requested that Home Mission Moneys be remitted to the Treasurer, Mr. Reid, promptly, so that he may be able to pay all supplements as soon as possible. It is hoped also that in all our congregations an effort will be made to increase the Home Mission Contributions so much as to enable the Committee to supplement the congregations requiring aid in a liberal manner. The amount required this year will be larger than last year as the *minimum* aimed at is higher, and a greater number of congregations are put upon the supplemented list. We cannot too earnestly commend this our Home Mission Scheme to the confidence and liberality of our christian people. The elaborate Report for last year speaks for itself and will commend the object to all who peruse it. It is expected that the contributions will be raised either by subscription, or in some way more effectual than a mere collection on one Sabbath or at a Missionary Meeting.

FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

In view of the usual Annual Collections taken up by the Congregations of the Canada Presbyterian Church on behalf of this Society, the following statements in relation to its work are presented. As some of the Readers of the "*Record*" may not be fully informed about the extent of the field occupied by the French Canadian Missionary Society, the formidable obstacles with which it has to contend in the prosecution of its work, nor the extent of the agencies it employs, a few words on these points may not be amiss. Without such information, no correct appreciation can be made of what it has done in the past, and what remains for it to accomplish in the future.

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DECEMBER, 1867.

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THE LATE SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

The late Sabbath School Convention in Toronto was, in many respects, a very successful gathering. The number of ministers, Sabbath school teachers and other friends of the good cause, who came from different parts of this country and the United States, was very large, and is a striking proof of the hold that these noble institutions have on the Christian Church. Not less than nine hundred delegates and visitors, of whom about twenty were Americans, were present, to advance the interests of the Convention, and take part in its proceedings. The people of Toronto, too, evinced their deep interest in the proceedings by crowded churches and attentive audiences. We thought the attendance at the Hamilton Convention was large, but the attendance in Toronto, both of delegates and visitors, was much larger. On Thursday afternoon, even although the weather was very unfavourable, the scholars of thirty-two schools, numbering over four thousand children, assembled in three different Churches, to engage in singing and hearing addresses from delegates. Indeed, the attendance at all the meetings was very large. It would be difficult, in connection with any other religious movement, to assemble audiences so large and enthusiastic as those which were gathered in Knox's Church on the three successive evenings of the Convention.

There are a few things that have struck us as peculiarly interesting in connection with this gathering of christian men and women in our rising city.

In the first place there was the spirit of christian union which was very marked throughout all the proceedings. We believe that christians should hold their distinctive principles firmly and intelligently; but surely this should not prevent our meeting on a common platform, with other branches of the great Catholic Church, in advancing the common cause of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Christians, while they stand aloof from each other, are too apt to magnify the points of difference that separate them, and each denomination to think that none is on the way to Heaven but themselves. The mind is too frequently taken up with only one aspect of truth, and hence the conclusion come to must be false. Moralists tell the following story which may illustrate this point. In the days of knight-errantry, when individual adventurers rode about the world seeking employment in their profession, which was that of the sword, two strong and warlike knights, coming from opposite directions, met each other at a place where a statue was erected. On the arm of the statue was a shield, one side of which was of iron, the other of brass; and as our two heroes reined up their steeds, the statue was upon the side of the road