

under the best and most skilful treatment. The doctors understood his malady, and knew full well how he must be treated. Wise and able professional men—Mr. Martin, Mr. Pollok, and Mr. Costley—all agreed in saying that the sick child merely required “support,” and they made many appeals in his behalf, and did not appeal in vain, for his friends took an interest in him, and rallied around him, and gave the required “support;” and so, year after year, they were able to announce that the patient was convalescent and the child gradually becoming stronger and stronger. Any one who has looked at him for the last year, must at least be convinced that he has “cut his teeth,” and that he seems to be quite proud of the fact, in shewing them rather freely. As always happens, the consciousness of newly-acquired health and strength made the youth rather turbulent and noisy. We trust there will be no relapse; for our friend is by no means perfectly clear of his old malady; for he still needs support, and it is to be hoped his friends will not forget nor forsake him.

Or let us speak of the affairs of the *Record* in other and more direct words. The Report of the Committee for the last few years, has, upon the whole, been favorable. At last meeting of Synod, it was found that the circulation of our periodical was gradually, though slowly, extending, and that, at the same ratio of progress, it would, in a very short time, become quite self-sustaining, and be, in every respect, in a most satisfactory position. It was evident that the *Record* was becoming a favorite with the Church, and the Church was beginning adequately to support the *Record*. This was certainly a highly pleasing state of matters, and every friend of the *Record* rested satisfied in the belief that “the day of better things” had dawned upon the Church.

Since the meeting of Synod, the subject-matter of the *Record* has become strangely altered. A wave of controversy has swept over our little Church, and strangely disturbed her usual calm equanimity. In that controversy we have taken no part, and, at this stage even, we wish to say as little about it as possible. The most pleasing fact that we have to state regarding it is, that it is now over, and, in so far as the *Record* is concerned, quite dead, and in so far, we trust, as all whom it might affect is concerned, buried from their minds for ever. Perhaps, indeed, it would have been unreasonable to suppose that any paper conducted upon the same principles with ours, could remain perfectly free from all controversy. Nor, perhaps, would it be desirable; for where all expression of opinion is forbidden, the result must be, of course, stagnation of thought and deadness of action. Yet controversy, and very often Ecclesiastical controversy, has a strange tendency to descend from the higher ground of abstract principles, and ultimately to rest

in personalities. When the combat fairly begins, parties are not very fastidious in the choice of their weapons. *Furor administrat arma*. Our ancestors who fought under the old flag of the Covenant, took such weapons as came to their hand. Every man did not possess the “trusty broadsword” nor the “good Ferrara”, and, although he did possess them, could not use them skilfully; but, rather than remain away from the fight, they shouldered their *pitchforks* and marched away to the battle. And perhaps many might think that the pitchfork has of late been rather unsparingly handled. At all events, we have had a good deal of rattling of arms, and clashing of swords, and splintering of lances, but it is at least satisfactory to know that there has been no man killed, and we hope the wounded have all recovered, at least on the last day of the Old Year. At all events, the noise is past, and din of arms silenced, and all parties, we feel confident, have cordially “shaken hands,” and are now more willing than ever to combine most heartily so as to render more triumphant than ever—

## (2.) The Future of the *Monthly Record*.

In order to accomplish this, several things are necessary.

(a) All the old friends of the *Record* must continue their exertions, and strive to make as many *additional friends* as possible espouse the cause and promote the circulation of the organ of our Church. Otherwise the *Record* must be placed in the category of “the things that cannot go on.” The sooner we realize the fact the better. It will not do to look upon a Church *Record* as we do upon an ordinary newspaper. The latter is very much a commercial speculation. If it should pay, it brings gain to an individual who is the proprietor; and if it should not pay, he alone, or, at least, for the most part, is the loser. Hence the general public are not so much interested and concerned as to the fate of the ordinary newspaper. They know that *individual* self-interest will induce the proprietor to do all he can to circulate his paper, and to this individual self-interest they leave the issue. But, in the case of a Church organ, there is no *special individual interest* at stake. The whole Church here is the proprietor, and it is equally the interest of every member, lay and clerical, to promote its circulation; and each individual, in so far as he is able, is called upon to advance its interests. Were we to adopt this view of the *Record*, and act accordingly, it would immediately become self-sustaining.

(b) Those gentlemen who have already done so much in its behalf—the various Agents throughout the country who have done so well and forwarded so many subscribers' names in the past, shall kindly strive to add a few names to the list of 1866. If each Agent could send even two or three additional names to those who already take