

The Presbyterian Review.

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To Our Readers.

FOR eight years THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW has been a welcome visitor in many homes from which there has come abundant testimony that its message, carefully conceived and forcibly expressed, has reached many hearts. Its work has been recognized and its friends have become many. But the time arrived, a few weeks ago, when those who had burdened themselves with the arduous responsibilities of producing a first-class religious journal, decided it would be in the interest of the paper itself and of its constituency that it should change hands, and by the infusion of an enterprise and attention, which, owing to the necessities of other business they did not feel they could bestow upon it, the REVIEW would continue its good work with renewed energy and success. When this decision became known there were not wanting many friends, and the new proprietors now take up the work where the old company laid it down, with their good will and good wishes. In doing so we would convey to our readers our heartiest greeting.

It shall be our aim to serve the cause of Christ to the best of our ability. We shall try to conform to His example in performing the difficult duties we have undertaken to discharge; to maintain in our columns the singleness of purpose, the humility, the love and the charity which are exemplified in His character; to observe the Golden Rule in our dealings, whether to friend or foe.

The many questions in which the Presbyterian Church in Canada is engaged shall have the first claim on our services. We believe the Church journal has a distinctive and important place in the discussion of these questions—not merely focussing the varied and latest views, but also comparing, sifting and emphasizing the phases of thought involved in them; and taking sides unhesitatingly when the interests of truth demand it. Controversy is often necessary; sometimes it is profitable. In our columns we shall neither shirk nor seek it, but it will be conducted with due regard to fairness and good temper. Our endeavour will be to observe strict impartiality between man and man, and between ourselves and our correspondents. Opinions, not persons, shall be the subject of our criticism. It shall be our duty to give fair play to all who may come within the purview of our columns. And this leads us to say that we are perfectly independent in our line of thought and treatment. Of policy we know nothing, unless it be that every question which will come before us will be dealt with on its merits; our conclusions will be guided by our convictions of truth not by sectional views, nor by a partisan spirit. Our columns, not promises, must speak for us in this respect.

Church news will receive special attention. The bigger events are fairly chronicled from day to day in the secular press, but there still remains for the religious journal a rich field in which to labour as no secular paper can. Indeed, the bringing together in concise form of intelligence of what the Church is doing along the range of her many interests, so that the progress of her work may be

noted, is one of the most useful functions of such a paper as THE REVIEW. But our scope will not be confined to Canada; Britain and her colonies, and the European continent, the United States and all places where the Presbyterian polity prevails, will furnish material, from week to week, which cannot fail to interest and enlighten our readers.

The want of the means of placing the current facts of congregational effort before the church in a coherent and comprehensive form has been long felt. This we will try to meet with brief reports of the work undertaken and accomplished in the congregations.

The Sabbath school department will be conducted so as to afford as much help as possible to the teachers and scholars. Brief comments on the lessons, on methods of teaching, and on the work of the school generally will be welcomed, the object of the department being to be really useful to the children and their teachers.

The mission work of the Canadian and other churches, at home and abroad, will be kept prominently to the front. All the resources at our command will be unflinchingly utilized and no effort will be spared to maintain efficiently the excellence of this department which has been justly appreciated in the past by our readers, and which by many has been regarded as the best feature of the paper.

A page will be set apart for a brief summary of a sermon, preached by a Canadian minister. When possible it will be given in the issue next following the Sabbath on which it shall have been preached, accompanied by a brief sketch and picture of the preacher. There are many bright minds and powerful intellects among our ministers, and when their ideas, nourished and developed amid the varied experiences of the practical pastorate, are given to the Church as a whole through our columns, they cannot fail, with the Divine blessing, to stimulate, to encourage and to be fruitful of good works. This feature should be most acceptable to our readers. Not only will it bring before them our representative and typical ministers, and with these a vast variety of thought and experience, but it will form an album containing the faces and words of men we all love, esteem and admire, for their eminence of gifts, and their devotion to their Divine Master.

When to this a page of literary review and a well-selected serial story are added, it will be seen that the sphere and scope of our labor are extensive and responsible. To work successfully the sympathy and support of our readers are necessary, and we look with confidence for both.

Two years ago the directors of THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW came to the conclusion that it would be advantageous to alter the form of the paper to a smaller page so that it might be more portable and more suitable for binding. The present occasion has been deemed opportune to carry this intention into effect, and the form in which it now appears, being the same as that of the Christian Union and the Chicago Interior, was decided upon as probably the best. The face is new, but the heart is as of old; and in the strength of old friends and new, it is our desire to go forward prospering and to prosper.