

to call again before the end of the month, and we shall converse about it.

*Duncan.* I am sorry your stay is so short. I am thankful you called. Your conversation will keep me thinking for some days. Good-bye—and God bless and reward you for your kind visit.

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#### THE RECORD.

We would beg the especial attention of our readers to the few words we now lay before them concerning the organ of our Church in the Lower Provinces. It is now near the termination of the seventh year of its existence. During no year has it been self-supporting, but we are happy in being able to state that for the present year it has come much nearer being so than at any previous period. This has been owing not to our increased circulation, but to the prepayment system, which has been adhered to so far with tolerable fidelity. Last year we had a circulation bordering on 2000, and a deficit of nearly £60 in consequence of bad debts. This year the resolution passed by the *Record* Committee, that the prepayment system be rigidly enforced, resulted in a considerable decrease in the number of our subscribers, but the balance against us is less than £10. This is encouraging, and leads us to hope that next year we will be self-supporting. In order, however, to effect this object, an earnest effort must be made throughout the Church. So far as we can learn, the *Record* commands the confidence and has the good wishes of every minister belonging to our Body, in the two Synods, without a single exception. It is therefore to them particularly, to their Kirk Sessions, and to our various agents and friends, we make our present appeal. We ask not only their interest, but their individual and united exertions. We wish to DOUBLE the circulation of the *Record*, and thus more than double its usefulness and efficiency. But this is not to be done by vague and general recommendation. If we are to succeed, it will be by the adoption of some practical and organized plan. We understand that a special committee will make it a point of duty to advocate the cause of the *Record* before every congregation within the bounds of the Presbytery of Pictou, and we are certain that in this effort they will receive not only the countenance, but the active assistance, of ev-

ery minister within the bounds. This visitation will be made some time before the expiry of the present year, of which due notice will be given. We would ask, and are convinced that we will not ask in vain, that all the other Presbyteries in the three Provinces would adopt the same or such plan as they may consider most likely to effect the desired object. Upon the Presbytery of Halifax we would press our claim with special urgency. In that Presbytery our circulation at present is very small; misunderstandings existed which we trust have now been entirely cleared away, and we now hope for the active sympathy and support of our friends in that quarter. A report was spread abroad, and partly believed, that the *Record* had political leanings and evinced political animus. Never was a more erroneous or a more baseless statement made. Never has a word which, either indirectly or remotely, had a political reference, appeared in its pages, and so long as it remains under its present management, there never will. We know, and will know, no party save one, whose motto is, the advancement of Christ's kingdom and the prosperity of our national Zion. This is the only platform that will find advocacy in these pages—and that advocacy will be, as it has hitherto been, straightforward and fearless, yet charitable, and never forgetting the spirit of a generous courtesy. Our great wish is to strengthen and support our Church, and, so far at least as an accredited organ can do so, secure and maintain for her a respectable position among the Churches of the Redeemer. We appeal to the Church with some confidence in the goodness of our cause. Let us not be for ever struggling, as it were, to live, and swimming for our life. We think we have now earned some title both to confidence and support. We say emphatically that the time has come to place our periodical either in a thoroughly independent position, or give up the attempt. Those congregations that think it merits support, will move, we hope, in earnest in our behalf; while those, if there are any, who think otherwise, will answer this appeal by doing nothing.

A circular on this subject will shortly be transmitted to all our ministers and Kirk Sessions, as well as our various agents, and we trust it will receive their prompt and earnest attention.

We have been requested by the committee to state that the Secretary has been instructed to adhere to the prepayment system as during the present year.

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#### THE MISSIONS IN THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

Sad tidings have reached us from these distant and barbarous lands. In our last number we mentioned that several of the islands in this group had been devastated by