

ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD,

For the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

"Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation."

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The Record.

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NEW VOLUME OF "RECORD"—REDUCTION OF PRICE

Although the circulation of the *Record* has been constantly increasing, we are still anxious that it should be more extensively read. We believe, that in this way, by the blessing of God, a deeper interest may be awakened in the cause of Christ, and a more extended support given to its various agencies. So thoroughly are we convinced of this, that we would be glad to have the *Record* distributed gratuitously throughout our congregations. This, however, cannot now be done. But in order to put it within the reach of all, it has been resolved to reduce the yearly subscription to *half a dollar* instead of 3s. 9d. as formerly charged. The object of this is to increase the circulation, and facilitate the payment of the subscriptions. This plan is, however, an experiment, and to render it successful, two things are required. In the first place, the subscription must be paid *invariably in advance*. In the second place, the number of subscribers must be increased. We therefore earnestly solicit the co-operation of the Ministers, Elders, Agents, and all our friends throughout the congregations of the Church. We trust the agents who have hitherto kindly taken an interest in the matter, will still continue to act, and that where there are no agents, Sessions will make arrangements to appoint them and communicate to us their names so that we may be enabled, in an early number, to publish a list of agents. In the meantime, it will be easy for two or more subscribers, to remit the amount in dollar bills, or, which is better, in post-office orders. We are most anxious that the arrears should be paid without delay; and we trust that, during the present month, subscriptions for the ensuing year will be forwarded, so that our lists may be made up. As to the increase of subscribers, as we cannot employ travelling agents, we must just beg of ministers and agents to do what they can to obtain additional names. We might suggest, too, that each subscriber should try to obtain one or more additional.

It will be seen that the present volume is commenced in a new, and we believe an im-

proved form. Instead of the receipts of moneys and advertisements being mixed up with the reading matter, they are thrown into the outside sheet, which may be laid aside if the volume is to be bound. Advertisements will be inserted on moderate terms.

Other improvements in the form may be introduced afterwards, if the present experiment is successful.

We expect to receive in a greater degree than formerly, assistance from friends and correspondents in supplying matter for the *Record*, while the letters of our Missionary, which will be published from time to time, will give new interest to the publication. We, therefore, earnestly request that friends will exert themselves to promote the circulation of the *Record* throughout all our congregations.

CIRCULAR ANENT A DAY OF HUMILIATION AND THANKSGIVING ADDRESS-ED TO THE MINISTERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

The appalling intelligence from India, of which you must be but too cognizant, together with the fact that the subject of that intelligence has called forth united and public prayers throughout various sections of the christian Church, suggested to me the desirableness of a meeting of Commission of Synod, to consider the propriety of a similar, and general and simultaneous movement, on the part of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. I am however happily relieved from the difficulty and responsibility of attempting such a convention of the brethren, by a request from a number of them to adopt the more practical course of addressing a circular to the several ministers, and recommending them to unite with their respective sessions in appointing a specified day for *humiliation and prayer* in the sad and solemnizing circumstances.

If the civil government announces an intention to appoint a general Fast-day, at an early date—as it is hoped they will—no doubt all of us would most willingly concur in the observance of the day so fixed, and would prefer a recommendation issued in this way. But in the event of there being no sure prospect of such an appointment, it seems to be the general idea that the 11th or 12th day of November, would be a convenient and proper season

for the important and solemn services contemplated.

Rev. and dear Sir, I shall not attempt to picture the awful scenes through which some of our fellow-subjects in India have been called to pass, during the last few months, nor to dilate on the horrors of insurrection and warfare, of treachery, violence, and massacre, and the cruelties, barbarities and unparalleled atrocities which have been perpetrated in that land; spectacles which make the heart bleed, and call to heaven for retribution. Nor need I dwell on the urgent call to prostration before almighty God on account of these things; for surely He has a controversy with the nation. Neither is it for me to say, by what means our dominions in the East were originally acquired; whether, as a nation, we have discharged our duty to India—or whether we have laboured to fulfil the designs of the Most High in making so extensive and populous a territory an integral portion of the British Empire. Your own intelligence will place these matters in a just point of view. And without perplexing ourselves with remote questions, let us look at things as they are. The native population seem not to have any reasonable ground for complaint;—British supremacy in India is allowed to be essential to the improvement, socially, morally, and spiritually of its teeming millions; and the word of inspiration tells us to "be subject to the powers that be." Therefore permit me only earnestly to invite your concurrence in a general exercise of Fasting and Humiliation, on the occasion, before Him, who is the Lord of all, and Governor among the nations. Approaching His throne in the spirit of prayer is the only way open to us for immediately aiding those who are far removed from us. It is, indeed, the most effectual method of enlisting our sympathies and energies in behalf of our fellow-creatures whether for time or eternity. It is a resource which is ever at hand, and which is available when all other means fail. Your best feelings at once dictate the course which true wisdom and christian duty point out; and doubtless you have already been frequently impelled in your public as well as private devotions to remember the cause of your suffering fellow-countrymen—us also the interests and honour of the British crown,—and above all, the Lord's work in India, so sadly threat-