

cannot feel it as a burden—while they derive both profit and pleasure from its usual.

We must however tell our readers the plain honest truth. The *Record* has hitherto non-supporting, and the fault, and a fault it is, can be imputed only to the most lifeless indifference which has characterized some sections of our church. We are not to make another effort, and we appeal to every right minded man, every true friend of the Church of Scotland, whether he ought to come forward and lend a helping hand. We believe there is not one subscriber on our list with so little influence, but that he could with very little trouble on his part, get at least one subscriber more. There is not a church or district which could not with a little energy, increase three fold its present subscription list.

Let them not suppose by doing so they would be doing a useless or unimportant work. They would thus most effectually strengthen the church by opening up to all its members avenues for information, pure, useful and edifying, common alike to the rich and to the poor.

We are convinced that the matter only requires to be brought before and understood by our people in order to receive their hearty support. Indeed we have had proof of this lately. At two meetings held respectively at the East and West Branch of East River, the circulation in these places has by a single year been more than doubled, with a prospect of still further increase. Similar meetings have been or will be held during the present year throughout every church and congregation in the County of Pictou, and we have no manner of doubt, with as favorable a result. We would venture to make an appeal to the ministers and influential lay members connected with the other presbyteries, to support us in the effort we are now making. Our cause is a common one—the cause of our beloved Church, to which we believe its *Record* to be, as we have no doubt it has been, an element of much good.

But it is not an increase in circulation alone which the *Record* stands in need. To be worthy of the name it bears, it must contain information drawn from many sources, and that information, no individual, however willing, can supply without help from many quarters. The present editor would respectfully request

that that aid may not be withheld. Several ministers of the church have kindly promised to furnish a monthly article; others, one, less frequently, perhaps, but as often as they conveniently can. These contributions will, they may rest assured, be received as gladly by the people at large as by the conductor of the periodical. We wish above everything to keep our readers well informed on all local facts and incidents connected with our churches in these Lower Provinces. Our ministers and also our laymen in their respective localities can easily do this; and we hope to be able to acknowledge many such favors, whether in the form of an article, a letter, or even a newspaper. We, on our part, will do what we can to make this a prosperous year for our little magazine; but the success, after all, is in the hands of the members of the church itself. With sincere wishes of many happy returns of the New Year, we commit to our numerous readers the safety and support of "The Monthly Record of the Church of Scotland."

### COLUMN FOR THE YOUNG.

BY A SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHER.

#### THE MOUNTAINS OF SCRIPTURE.

MY YOUNG FRIENDS,—I purpose, with the permission of the Editor of the *Record*, to furnish you, now and then, with a few instructive and interesting facts and incidents connected with Scripture History. In the present letter I will tell you a few things about Mountains, more especially the mountains of the Bible.

Mountainous countries have in all ages been subjects of the greatest interest, not only on account of their picturesque grandeur and sublimity, but also from the generally noble and independent character of their inhabitants. The mountain air is pure and free, and the mountaineer has generally a soul filled with devoted affection for his native hills; ready to do and dare everything to keep them free.

The Highlands of Scotland is a land of mountains, tenanted by a hardy and noble race, whom even the proud Romans, in days of old the conquerors of the world, failed to subdue.

The beautiful little country of Switzerland, cradled among the Alps, though small in extent, has had its freedom maintained against its numerous and powerful neighbors, by its brave, intelligent and virtuous people. Who has not heard the story of William Tell?

In the late war between France and Aus-