

The Presbyterian College Journal,

Published MONTHLY during the Session (from October to April, both inclusive) on behalf of the ALMA MATER SOCIETY of the PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL, P. Q.

JOHN MITCHELL, '81, - MANAGING EDITOR.
 REV. D. L. MCCRAE, '79, } - - ASSOCIATE EDITORS.
 REV. W. J. DEV, M.A., '75, }
 W. T. HERRIDGE, B.A., '83, }
 REV. A. B. CRUCHET, '79, } J. HARVEY MACVICAR, '88,
 French Editor. *Local & Exchange Editor.*

Subscription:
 Fifty cents per Session in advance. Single copies Ten cents; Extras to subscribers Five cents each.
 Remit by Post Office Order, procurable at any Money Order Office in the Dominion; rate for \$4.00 or under, two cents.
 JOURNAL for sale at Drysdale's, Dawson Bros., and other city booksellers.

All communications and exchanges must be addressed to the
 PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE JOURNAL,
 Montreal, P. Q., Canada.

MONTREAL, P. Q., DECEMBER, 1881.

THE holiday season is upon us. Christmas and New Year are at hand. Principally characterized in our monastic life by general dulness; somewhat relieved by exemption from attendance on professorial prelections. Popularly it is considered to be a season of festivity and rejoicing. Conventional usage, an attention to the "eternal proprieties" of modern etiquette, requires us to bid you, our "dear readers," the compliments of the season. We bid you also send in your subscriptions and contributions to our organ of modern thought—expressed as student opinion.

THE NEW "HYMNAL WITH TUNES."—In our last we gladly hailed its issue. Ere this, no doubt it is—or at least should be—in the hands of all. Its merits, literary and musical, entitle it to an honourable rank among its contemporaries. The work reflects great credit on its enterprising publishers, the committee, and the musical editor. There is a very excellent variety, not only in the subject matter of the hymns, but also in the character and metre of the tunes. The careful classification and arrangement of subjects, is worthy of special notice, and exhibits at a glance the comprehensive character of the subjects embraced in the collection, which, we are delighted to see, includes some very fine hymns for children's services. The careful adaptation and skilful harmonizing of the tunes gives a remarkable combination of ease and elegance, popularity and practicability allied with the higher graces of melodic and harmonic art. A glance at its pages will suffice to show that it is just the book our church requires, containing as it does an ample store of simple congregational music and familiar hymns, with a sprinkling of more artistic work sufficient to interest and improve our more advanced choirs and congregations. Time and space do not permit details, else many points might be noted, such as, the use of marks of expression:—the introduction of many new hymns and tunes, not to be found in any other collection:—the correction of slight

mistakes in other hymnals, for instance, the barring of tune "Regent Square," which is written so as to begin on the first beat of the measure, as it ought to be, and not on the third or medium accent as in the English Presbyterian Hymnal:—in the matter of pitch, several tunes have been set lower than usual, such as Nicolai, Martyrdom, and others; besides which, the introduction of second tunes will be found helpful, where, as in several cases, the first tune may be found somewhat difficult, such as in hymn 200, where the tune "Sandon" will form an easy substitute for the more florid "Lux Benigna."

The "Fixed-tune" or "association" principle, instead of the "cut-leaf" method, has been wisely chosen. Should it be found necessary to use other tunes than those to which the hymns are set, the smaller edition with the words only, can be conveniently used with the Hymnal with Tunes. The cut-leaf system is less durable and more expensive, besides, for the sake of uniformity and association, it would be better if the hymns and tunes on the same page could be practised and introduced together; it serves also to check the vagaries of taste, which are sometimes difficult to account for, much less to reconcile.

We trust that its introduction will be vigorously pushed throughout the Church, and that its mission among us will prove a stimulus to greater zeal in the work of improving the singing of our congregations.

May we not hope, ere long, to have the satisfaction of seeing our "new friend" clothed in the easy-fitting, cheap and fashionable garb of the Sol-fa notation? Without which it cannot possibly become a thorough success.

We would suggest that the Hymn-book Committee, before disbanding, place some thoroughly practical scheme before the Assembly for the improvement of the Church's psalmody, particularly in the outlying rural districts, so that every congregation may be able to make an intelligent use of such an admirable hymn-book as we now possess.

THE CELT ABROAD.—It is more than merely interesting to know—for it has many points of practical importance—that the Gaelic tongue is spoken in many parts of the Dominion. A reference to our Calendar will show that the Rev. Neil McNish, B.D., LL.D., an accomplished scholar and well-known divine, lectures on Gaelic language and literature during the session: to which a scholarship and prizes are attached. A Gaelic service is maintained during the winter by the students, who are thus qualified theoretically and practically for the work of our church in such districts as Glengarry, parts of the eastern townships, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton, many townships in Nova Scotia, and such districts as Bruce, Huron, Middlesex, &c., in the west, where there are many congregations, having joint English and Gaelic services. It is currently reported that a revision of the present version of the Gaelic Bible is being made by Scottish divines, and the Halifax *Presbyterian Witness* says, that the Rev. D. B. Blair of Barney's River, N.S.,