

was not sufficiently supported to enable its proprietors to continue to issue it.

Since the paper I refer to was discontinued our Church has possessed no means, in these Lower Provinces, of communicating with her adherents through the press. A large number of her people knew nothing at all of the proceedings of her Church courts, her Missionary Schemes, of her exertions to raise up a native ministry, her efforts to extend her ministrations more widely in destitute localities, nor indeed of any thing that concerned her except in their own limited spheres of observation. Misrepresentations respecting her were often industriously circulated, and because they were, not contradicted, they were, in many cases received by ignorant persons as truth. In this way, some who at one time were united with us, have been drawn away from our communion, becoming, by a process by no means uncommon, first indifferent and then hostile to the Church within whose pale they had been reared. It is true, the Montreal Presbyterian which has been circulated to some extent in the Lower Provinces, conducted, as it has been, with much talent and judgement has done us good service. Still it has been felt that a periodical issuing from a place a thousand miles from Halifax and established with the express intention of being more especially the organ of the Canadian branch of our Church, could not be expected completely to supply the want that was felt in this and the adjoining Provinces.

In common with many of the friends of our Church, I, accordingly, hailed, with much satisfaction the proposal to establish the Halifax Monthly Record; and have, all along, perused its pages with much interest. In the place where I reside, the number of subscribers is very considerable, and I am disposed to think they will increase rather than fall off. I have had occasion to converse with many of them, and in almost every case much satisfaction has been expressed with the information and instruction which were furnished in your pages. Indeed, the only complaint I ever heard uttered respecting your paper was the irregularity of its transmission; and this, I am glad to learn is now, in course of being effectually prevented in future — I was exceedingly sorry to find from your circular, a few weeks ago, that unless the number of Subscribers was increased, the conductors contemplated the discontinuance of the publication.

Now, sir, I am fully satisfied, from what I have myself observed, that if the Ministers of our Church, in their respective localities, would take a little interest in the matter, and a little trouble to bring your periodical under their people's notice, there would be no difficulty at all in greatly enlarging the list of Subscribers. But it has surprised me exceedingly to learn that, most unaccountably, several ministers whom I could name have put forth no exertion whatever on its behalf: that in some congregations the subscribers are very few; and if I am not much misinformed, in some there are literally none at all.

Shall we, Mr. Editor, give those who wish no success to our cause, occasion to taunt us by saying that a periodical professedly the organ of our Church, costing only the trifling sum of half a dollar year, could not meet with sufficient support in three or four British Provinces, to enable its proprietors to carry it on without a loss? I should be ashamed, Sir, to hold up my face and avow my connexion with any denomination, were I to manifest such indifference in regard to its welfare and to the work in which it is engaged.

It is characteristic of all free Institutions that they court enquiry; they have nothing to conceal; for the more they are known the better they are liked. Their object is the public good; and, generally speaking the more widely the knowledge of them and of their object is diffused, the more they will prosper. Despotie Institutions on the contrary, whether political or religious, repress enquiry and shrink from investigation. They shun the light because they cannot abide the exposure which the admission of light would occasion. That Branch of the Church of Scotland existing in these Provinces claims, as I conceive, upon good grounds to be, in the best sense of the term, a Free Church. The parent Church exercises no control over her. She is free to enact her own laws, and to regulate her own affairs. Her Congregations are perfectly free to call to be their minister any one duly qualified and accredited for that office. She numbers amongst her people in these Provinces the most enterprising merchants the most skilful Cultivators of the soil the most expert artisans; and, in short men who are inferior to none in any of the walks of life.

I am sure there are thousands of such, I speak without a figure to whom half a dollar a year is no object whatever; and, were their attention properly called to it you might count your subscribers by thousands instead of hundreds as at present.

And I do not urge this upon the adherents of our Church by way of making a demand upon their Charity to support a sinking cause, I call upon them to give the small sum above mentioned for which, I am sure you will furnish them with an ample return in the information and instruction which you will provide for them in your pages. We cannot expect gentlemen to continue long to carry on any public undertaking if it does not pay the necessary expences. Our Church owes a debt of gratitude to those public spirited individuals who have started your periodical and I for one tender them my hearty thanks. But empty thanks will not pay the printer. This can only be done by our people, in all our congregations, giving in their names to your agents as subscribers to your paper. This, I am sure, will strengthen your hands, and be an inducement for you to use every exertion to render your publication increasingly interesting and instructive to all who desire to see the prosperity of our

18th Oct., 1858.

Encouraging Prospects.

THE numerous and attached friends and well-wishers of our Church in this and the neighboring Provinces cannot fail to rejoice at the returning prosperity with which we have been lately visited, and the large contribution which has already taken place in the number of our Ministers, after a long season of trial and adversity. Indeed, we have the most convincing and satisfactory proofs that can possibly be obtained of the delight and gratitude of the people, and the talents and acceptableness of the Ministers who have been sent out to them, in the prompt and spontaneous expressions of approbation which have been by the most competent judges so cordially manifested.

In less than two months five Missionaries were sent out by the Colonial Committee, to officiate within the bounds of the Synod of Nova Scotia, four of whom have been already unanimously invited to accept of fixed charges in these Colonies.

The Rev. Thomas Duncan, the first of these Missionaries who arrived in the Province, has received and accepted a call from St. James Church, Charlottetown, and has been lately ordained Pastor of that congregation by the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, as successor to the Rev. Wm. Snodgrass.

The Rev. A. Lochland, who arrived here after Mr. Duncan, has also received and accepted a call from the Presbyterian congregation at Georgetown, in that Island, and has lately been ordained and inducted to the pastoral charge of Georgetown congregation.

The Rev. Donald McKae, one of our youngest but most promising preachers, received a most enthusiastic welcome from his future congregation, on the East and West branches of the East River of Pictou, and has been unanimously invited to become the fixed pastor. He has cordially and cheerfully accepted their call, and will be inducted to the pastoral charge of the congregation at the least possible delay.

The Rev. George Boyd, who accompanied Mr. McKae to this Province, has also received a most harmonious invitation from the congregation of St. Andrew's Church in this case to become their minister, and on his acceptance of this call when tendered to him, the Presbytery of Halifax will make the necessary arrangements for his ordination and induct to the pastoral charge of the congregation.

These are certainly most cheering and encouraging events, more especially when it is known how short a time these preachers have been on the field where they were erstwhile strangers; when it is understood that all the calls have been most unanimous; and that the congregations have engaged in almost every instance to pay the entire salaries of the clergymen. The Colonial Committee may safely send out Ministers to such an earnest and devoted people, and to such a promising field as this. And they are resolved and determined to send us more missionaries. From the following letter received in the month of October, by the Editor of this Journal, from the Rev. Dr. Fowler, Convener of the Colonial Committee, we learn that other two missionaries are now on their way and may be expected in this Province immediately: — missionaries in three months to supply long neglected congregations. We hope those missionaries who are about to arrive will be as successful as their predecessors. Indeed we might safely state in the hearing of the