

periodical such as this becomes a most valuable organ through which the church may give information to her people, not only as to fields of usefulness in christian enterprise which they ought to occupy, but as to the way in which she applies the means which they place at her disposal. The Presbyterian system recognises and reduces to practice the scriptural distinction betwixt the rulers and the ruled; but at the same time, and upon the same scriptural authority, it repudiates any such distinction as would imply that the rulers are lords over God's heritage. It is the duty of the office-bearers of the church so to act as that they may carry along with them the mind of an enlightened people. As accountable to him whose servants they officially are, they must exonerate their own conscience in earnest dealings with the consciences of their people as to the duties which they are called upon to discharge, and in a faithful application of those means which their people may place at their disposal for the benefit of the church; but there is a responsibility under which they lie also to the people themselves, and, with respect to that, they must be careful so to act as that the ministry be not blamed. In discharging themselves of this responsibility there is much which they require to bring before their flocks which cannot so conveniently be presented to them in connexion with the ministrations at a meeting assembled for public worship on the Lord's day. Meetings for religious purposes, especially in a thinly peopled country, are not very easily assembled at other times; and while we see that, with all the facilities for holding such meetings which are enjoyed in Scotland, where so deep an interest is taken in the affairs of the church, they still find the advantage of having an ecclesiastical Record to circulate among the families of their charge, much more must such a channel of information be needed in a country such as this.

It is well too that the families of our charge should know something of what is doing in the same cause in other portions of the Church. From the extended views which they may be thus led to contemplate, they may come to realize more distinctly their own individual position, whether as to wants or privileges, and to feel more strongly the obligation which lies upon them as to their individual duties. They may be stimulated by the example of others, and may have their

minds more fully enlightened as to the most advisable modes of acting; when at length they are brought to feel that they are bound to be active in seeking the good of Jerusalem. The most striking lessons of this kind may be found in the proceedings of the Free Church of Scotland; and on this account, as well as because we ought to take a deep interest in the proceedings of a Church which has done so much for these Colonies, it will be steadily held up for contemplation. At the same time, it must be evident that important lessons may be learned from the proceedings of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, which is placed in circumstances more nearly resembling our own. There is a brotherhood with that Church which ought to be especially cultivated; and while we rejoice with them in the very decided progress which, every year, they are making, we would do well to profit by the experience which in this progress they are acquiring. Nor is it to be forgotten that in England, in Ireland, and in other British Colonies besides those of North America, there are brethren holding up the same banner, seeking to edify themselves and others in the same most holy faith, and in whose proceedings therefore we ought to feel an interest.

Our space is so very limited that our notice of the bodies to whom we have referred must be very short, but still there are other bodies whose peculiar principles indeed we may not regard as so Scriptural, but in whom nevertheless we rejoice to recognize the servants of the same Lord, and workers in the same vineyard. Many of these have not only manifested much zeal, but have enjoyed much of the blessing of God, in their labours to propagate the Gospel; and it will be a pleasure to us, as we doubt not it may be also for the edification of our people, to refer occasionally to their proceedings, as showing, through the varied instrumentality which God is pleased to employ, the progress of that work which shall at length result in the completion of that glorious temple which he is rearing for himself, when the headstone shall be brought forth with shoutings, grace, grace unto it.

In endeavouring to carry out what is thus proposed, we invite, and shall look for, communications from our friends, furnishing us with the materials for the Record. For the way in which they conduct it, the Committee are responsi-