

TO THE ADHERENTS AND FRIENDS OF  
THE FREE CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The great majority of you are well aware that a periodical was started three years ago as the official organ of the Church, and as such, possessing special claims on your countenance and support. It is not for us to say anything in reference to the manner in which that periodical has been conducted, or whether it has fully served the end intended by the Church in setting it agoing. It is more to our purpose that we ask you calmly and prayerfully to consider whether you have taken that interest in the periodical that its avowed object demanded, or used the means within your reach for its more extensive circulation; or whether you have attended as you ought to the instructions it inculcated, or endeavored to see that its principles and aims were carried into practical and vigorous operation. These are questions which we would urge upon the consideration of all,—Ministers, Elders, and people. It is much to be feared that the office-bearers of our Church, generally, have not taken that interest in the periodical that it was expected they would, or else surely they would have adorned its pages with a far greater number of original articles, and sent every scrap of local ecclesiastical intelligence they could gather up. Neither have the adherents of our Zion manifested that zeal in the upholding of this,—the accredited organ of the Church,—or else its circulation would have been double of what it really is, and by this time been fully self-sustaining.

It is earnestly hoped that after the declarations made by various members of Synod at its last meeting, this state of things will not continue longer, and that another spirit will be manifested all over the Church. The Committee appointed at that meeting of Synod, to adopt whatever measures they might see fit regarding the *Record*, felt themselves under obligations to continue it to the end of the current year, and to conduct it as nearly as they could in the same style. And now that another year of its existence is about to close, they have resolved to make considerable alterations, and, they trust, improvements, in the hope of awakening a deeper interest on its behalf; and of vastly extending its circulation. As will be seen from the Circular which that Committee has addressed to the Kirk-Sessions of the Free Church, it is proposed to alter its form, to throw it into a quarto instead of an

octavo shape, as being more readable, and, in some respects, more attractive.—It will also be seen that it is proposed to request the Kirk-Sessions of the various congregations to undertake the great burden of its circulation and support; and upon whom can this duty devolve with greater propriety, or by whom is it more likely to be discharged with success?—The Kirk-Sessions constitute the representatives of their respective congregations, appointed for the express purpose of looking after their religious interests, of opening up every avenue for the enlightenment of their understanding, and the elevation of their moral and spiritual character. And surely the giving of their assistance towards the circulation of a periodical whose avowed object it is to advocate the principles of that Church around which cluster the dearest and tenderest associations, as well as to announce the triumphs of divine grace through her instrumentality in the various missionary fields occupied by her, is just the very employment befitting their high and honorable vocation—the very employment in which they should glory. It will be observed that with the view of enabling every Kirk-Session, even those in the poorest settlements, to put every family in possession of a copy of the official organ of the Church, it has been reduced nearly one-half its original cost, when taken in large assortments. It is earnestly hoped that Kirk-Sessions will do their duty, that this reduction in price may be more than compensated by its increased circulation, and so the periodical not only serve more effectually the end intended, but prove, in course of time, more than self-sustaining. It is also intimated in the Circular given above, that a much greater variety of subjects shall be embraced in this new series of the *Record*. With a condensed view of all the evangelistic proceedings of our beloved Zion there will also be a synopsis of all ecclesiastical intelligence, and it is to be hoped a much fuller detail of all the operations of our Church, in these localities.

Nothing shall be wanting on the part of the Committee to render the organ of the Church as interesting and as instructive as possible, and it is hoped that the efforts will be duly responded to by all the Ministers, Elders, and adherents within the bounds of our Zion. By the next meeting of Synod it will be seen whether this experiment will succeed.