

accomplished we will have the consciousness if we do our duty faithfully that we have left nothing undone for the cause of Christ. We assume our rightful influence in the united body; preserve our own self-respect and obtain the acknowledgement that we have been faithful servants.

And what we have said of the North-West applies even more strongly to British Columbia. There we have already a missionary labouring earnestly and successfully. What has hitherto kept back that magnificent colony has been the want of means of communication. A railway from the old Provinces will before many years lessen—it might almost be said remove—the distance to the newly-admitted sister Province. In the face of the shortcomings for the last year or two in respect to our obligations for this mission, it might almost seem idle to hope that besides fulfilling the present, a new and greatly heavier burden will be undertaken. Yet with energetic, thorough, conscientious labour, vastly more than we have done may be accomplished. What effort has been made for either Manitoba or British Columbia? Before how many congregations has the subject of these, our latest HOME MISSIONS, been faithfully and intelligently advocated? Events advance rapidly in our day, and an interest has been awakened in these Western Territories and Pacific possessions, whose names a very few years ago were scarcely known, and which were regarded as howling wildernesses, the haunts of the furbearing animals and of Red Indians. Let an earnest and faithful appeal be made now, and if it is made with singleness of heart and sincerity of purpose, there will be no lack of answering hearts and ready hands.

THE Committee charged with the management of the *Presbyterian* after the first of January next will, no doubt, in due time issue such a programme or prospectus, as may be deemed necessary, in explanation of the important changes contemplated in regard to its future. Meantime, we may safely congratulate the Church that, at all events, the continued *existence* of the *Presbyterian* in some form or other appears to be guaranteed. If outwardly, or otherwise, it shall assume new features, let us hope that we shall always be able to recognize in it an old friend—one that has done good work for the Church during

a quarter of a century, that has outlived many reverses, and has outrun every competitor in the particular department of literature to which it has been devoted. But this is not the time for a valedictory. One item of the minutes of the *Presbytery* reported in Montreal in last issue is worthy of special notice—the resolution to reduce the price of the *Presbyterian* to *twenty-five cents!* It is a bold measure. The question naturally arises, if it did not pay at \$1 how can it possibly survive at twenty-five cents? Every one must be aware that the chief labour and expense of producing any printed magazine lie in the type-setting. This part of the work being done, an indefinite number of copies may be produced at little more cost than the price of the blank paper, the matter of printing and binding being reduced to a comparatively small figure by the facilities of modern machinery. In making their estimate of the *lowest price* at which it was possible to publish the *Presbyterian*, it was taken for granted that if it could be issued at a quarter of a dollar it might be possible to *ensure* its being taken by every family in the Church—the number of families, according to recent statistics, is considerably over ten thousand—and that a corresponding number of copies of the *Presbyterian* could be produced for the sum of \$2,500 a year is capable of demonstration. The only open question in connection with this matter is, *can we depend* upon our ministers and congregations to support the Synod's Committee in such an enterprise?

We name *our ministers* particularly and advisedly, for we must not conceal from them our firm conviction that they have the power, if they choose to exert it in the right way, not only to accomplish this desideratum, but in many other ways to place the whole of the Schemes of the Church on a more efficient footing than they have ever yet been.

One mode of dealing with this matter of the *Presbyterian* has suggested itself to our mind, and commends itself the more we think of it. Will no Kirk Session take note of it? That every Kirk Session should become pecuniarily responsible for as many copies of the *Presbyterian* as there are families in the congregation, care being taken that a copy is furnished to each family. It is scarcely to be conceived that any considerable number of