

spirit of friendly intercourse and association with our Christian brethren of every sect. Let us seek to strengthen our cords by a closer and more intimate union, if possible, with the parent church. We owe her much. Would that we were not an offshoot only, but a branch of the noble trunk,—that we formed literally a portion of the body corporate, having a voice in her courts, enjoying such privileges as her inestimable widows' fund,—and so intimately and entirely one, that a benefice in Scotland and in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick might be equally attractive,—that the people might have the same chance of enjoying the ministrations of good and able men, and the minister the same position, comfort, influence and independence as in the mother country! Such a union may possibly never take place, but there are no physical difficulties in the way. Pictou is not so far from Edinburgh as Thunso was in the middle of the last century. But whether these bonds be drawn more closely or not, our religious principles must be without taint, our allegiance to our church must ever be maintained. We can neither lay down nor compromise any thing. All within our pale must submit to our discipline, agree to our formularies, and hold by our long-cherished name. Let it be remembered that our safety, our strength, our prosperity consist not so much in union with extraneous bodies as union amongst ourselves. We trust the present year will be one both of promise and performance.

**NOTE.**—We regret that we have been unable from want of information, to include in the present notice, the operations of our brethren in New Brunswick. We trust to rectify this omission in an early number, and in the meantime hope that the clergy, and other friends of the church in that province, will furnish us with the much desiderated intelligence on the subject.—ED. M. R.

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### THE "RECORD."

The *Record* has now entered on the sixth year of its existence, and under ordinary circumstances ought no longer to be considered in a state of pupillage; in other words it ought now to be able to pay its own way—to be self-sustaining. Any one who will take the trouble of looking at the statistical returns published in the October number of last year, will scarcely require to be informed that hitherto this has not been the case. He will there see that by twenty-one congregations, representing nearly thirteen thousand adherents, less than six hundred copies of the *Record* were taken—or to put the case in another way, one person out of every twenty-two was a subscriber for the paper. When New Brunswick, the congregations under Rev.

Mr. McDonald in Prince Edward Island, and the scattered districts in our own Province are included, the number will be swelled to about twelve hundred. Such was the state of matters at the end of last year, and we need not tell our readers that it has left the parties who are responsible, with a balance on the wrong side of the account. There is one circumstance however which encourages us not a little. During the past year, the publication has been growing gradually, we might almost say rapidly in strength, both in point of circulation and to some extent in punctuality of payment. For the former, we are no doubt indebted to the ability and zeal of its late editor, who has placed the whole church under a deep debt of gratitude for the efficient manner in which he has discharged the duties of his unrequited office; the latter we put to the account of the lay-committee of management and the zeal of some of the agents who deserve great credit for the energy they have shown and the trouble they have taken, under occasional circumstances of great discouragement.

We do not think that the church would now be willing to dispense with some such representative as our present *Record*. A Periodical has become almost a necessary part of the machinery of every church, and to no church is it so indispensably necessary, as our own, scattered, in many cases, in detached portions, over every nook and corner of these Lower Provinces.

The individual members desire, or at least ought to desire, to be kept acquainted with all the leading movements of the body corporate. The proceedings of the Home Church and the general progress that the Church of Christ is making all over the world, what may be called the literature of religion—the works of great and good men in all the churches, on the vital subject of Christianity, ought to be brought under their notice. Who will deny, that next to preaching the gospel, these are matters of the greatest interest and utility to every intelligent Christian man and woman? No one who has once experienced such advantages will ever willingly forego them. Impressed with the importance of this truth, we intend to persevere in the publication of the *Record*, and to make it as interesting and instructive as we can. We have made it so cheap that the poorest family in our connec-