

The Presbyterian.

A MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS RECORD



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.
CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE LAY ASSOCIATION.

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TO OUR READERS.

At the entrance of a New Year, the eighth of our humble periodical, we have again the pleasure of addressing a word to our readers, soliciting their kind co-operation and support. Those who are connected with this sheet have laboured for years, cheered often by kindly sympathies, and occasionally depressed by limited success, but yet believing that their labours might be overruled to the advantage of the Church with which they are connected. Situated as that Church now is, when our future Ministers must be dependent on their people, and the Church become in fact and of necessity a voluntary Church, whatever principle to the contrary she may hold, it becomes more than ever important that there should be a periodical connected with that Church and designed by recounting its progress to link the several congregations with each other, drawing out their sympathies towards each other, and stimulating them to mutual exertions. It is also desirable that Missionary efforts and the progress of the Mother Church of Scotland, and of other branches of the Redeemer's Church on Earth, should be traced in the pages of such a journal.

We shall continue then in the course which we have hitherto pursued, and shall appeal confidently to our readers and friends for support. Our paper has never yet paid its expenses, *trampling as the acknowledged is, and that simply because with a good subscription list yet the price*

is so low that we cannot pay collectors, and have to depend on voluntary efforts which in some quarters are neglected. We are compelled to believe that many have not even heard of the existence of our sheet, and we therefore again appeal to the Ministers of our Church to urge our claims upon their congregations. Many already do so, and merit our grateful thanks, and we trust that all will for the future bear our position in view. *Though the Church in Canada is in no way responsible for the contents of our periodical, yet it has been by the Synod approved and sanctioned, and our paper is in fact the virtual, because only, organ of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, and we believe we may add of the same Church in the Lower Provinces.**

*Since the above was in type we have received the *British Colonist* of December 16th, published in Halifax, N. S., from which we extract the following paragraph. "We understand that arrangements have been made by the friends of the Church of Scotland in this city for issuing a Monthly Religious Periodical in the beginning of the ensuing year. The want of such a medium of communication has been long and deeply felt by members and adherents of the Church in the Province, as they have had no connection with any Religious Journal in Nova Scotia since the discontinuance of the *Guardian*."

We sincerely hope that this effort of our brethren in Nova Scotia may be crowned with abundant success, and that the pages of their Journal, as well as those of our own, may be mutually helpful in encouraging each other's labours while, in advocating the cause of our common Christianity, our efforts will, however, be more particularly directed to the advancement of the Church of Scotland in these lands.

REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST YEAR.

Writing as we do on the threshold of a New Year, whilst the sands of 1854 are fast ebbing away, the mind is naturally led to a retrospect of the passing cycle of time albeit somewhat of foreboding as to the future may be evoked, to be calmed only by the conviction that "our times are in His hands," and that out of seeming evil He, who controls events, evokes good in the bringing about of His all-wise purposes. The past year has indeed been an eventful one, and the times in which we live are stirring. China has aroused from her ancient sleep—a great movement is in progress in her midst, boding the fall of her Tartaric dynasty. The complexion of the movement is peculiar, wearing a semi-Christian aspect. Ill informed and erring as the insurrectionists doubtless are, still good must in God's providence result from the use of even portions of His Holy Writ; and it spoke well for British benevolence that the grand idea of scattering a million of New Testaments in that land was caught up with characteristic energy and, spreading through Britain, her Colonies, and America, resulted thus far in the supplying of two millions of copies. We look with interest to the movement, and earnestly pray that it may be overruled for good, and be the commencement of that period when "they from the Land of Sinim" shall be brought into the fold, and "a nation born in a day."

Then too "the pestilence which walketh in darkness" has been abroad in the lands, passing through our own borders, and decimating the gallant forces in the