

# THE PRESBYTERIAN.

DECEMBER, 1862.

At the commencement of the present year, we stated the position of our journal in very plain language. We were then surrounded with "doubts, difficulties, and debts"—in doubt as to the propriety of continuing to carry on the paper at all; in difficulty as to the mode of conducting it; and in debt without any means to pay it.

It is now our agreeable duty to inform our readers that this state of matters has changed, and our success during the year which is now closing has removed any doubt as to the propriety of our continuing to publish the journal. The kind assistance of many warm friends of the Church, in coming to our aid with original articles, and attending to the business details, which require so much care and watching, greatly lessened the difficulty of conducting the magazine; while the liberality of our subscribers has not only paid off the large debt which we owed at the commencement of the year, with all the current expenditure, but has actually left us with a balance of money in hand to begin a new year. This is a state of matters so novel as to cause us some little surprise. We never have been in such a good position during all the fifteen years we have conducted the *Presbyterian*. We do not care to enquire too curiously into the cause of this success. We are satisfied with the fact. Our modesty prevents us from ascribing it all to our own good management, and we most willingly give the whole merit to our talented contributors.

We have done our best to give to every subscriber good value for his subscription. The Journal has been improved in form and increased in size; original articles of sterling merit have been sought for and obtained; and great care has been exercised in making selections not only suitable but interesting.

We issued, without any extra charge to our subscribers, out at considerable expense

to ourselves, one double number; we opened our columns freely for the discussion of subjects which, in our judgment, affected the interests of the Church and people, and allowed our readers with perfect fairness to see both sides of a question. We are advocates for free discussion; and we believe that the more all subjects connected with the Church are brought before the people and thoroughly ventilated, the better it will be both for the people and the Church. We shall never be a party to assist in the stifling of a free, open, unfettered interchange of opinion between all parties in the Church, no matter how much they may differ from each other; nor shall we ever withhold from the people the most ample information regarding the rights, privileges and duties of the Great Presbyterian Body in this country.

If in the exercise of our duties we have ever given cause of offence to any of our readers, we are unfeignedly sorry: we have never intentionally wounded the feelings of any one. Of course, we have our opinions on the leading questions of the day; and these opinions we have sometimes briefly but firmly expressed, as we have an undoubted right to do. But our readers will bear us out when we say that we have occupied but a small space in the Journal with our Editorial remarks, and have always endeavoured to state our views calmly and courteously. If we cannot conscientiously say as much for the articles of some of those who have written against our views and convictions, either in regard to their length or their spirit and manner—the fault does not lie with us.

Encouraged by the success of the past year we shall go on with the magazine; and we promise for the year to come considerable improvement in different ways. We have determined to print it upon a better quality of paper, to have in every number a greater variety of original arti-