

THE
CANADIAN PRESBYTER.
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NOTICE TO OUR FRIENDS.—The Editors beg to acknowledge receipt of many letters of encouragement from all parts of the country, and request that those who wish well to the Magazine will continue their kind efforts to obtain for it a large subscription list. Copies of this first number are sent to many Presbyterian Ministers and others, whose support is respectfully solicited.

The contents of the present number are almost entirely original. It will at once be seen that the Magazine proposes in its articles to occupy ground not covered by any existing Periodical. A considerable space is given to brief but careful reviews of books; and it is hoped that this department will be agreeable and useful to many who have not ready access to new publications.

INTRODUCTORY.

D. Fraser

The luxuries of one age become the necessities of the age that follows. We are happily familiar with this fact, as regards the comforts of civilized life, and the facilities of intercourse and travel. It holds equally true of intellectual benefits. Literature, once a privilege of the few, has become the companion of the multitude. In its periodical form especially, it has gained an extension and a power of which former generations never dreamed. Newspapers, Magazines and Reviews are everywhere contributing to lettered recreation, inculcating knowledge in its most portable shapes, and materially assisting the formation of public opinions. So well, indeed, is their influence understood, that they are vigorously employed by all great parties, religious, anti-religious, political, scientific, even industrial and commercial, in order to extend their base of popular support, to assert their position in the present, and win a vantage-ground for their expected triumphs in the future.

Canada, making rapid strides in intelligence and enterprise, gives promise of becoming a great consumer of literature. It is certain that her demand will meet a supply; and that of the supply, a large proportion must be in the periodical form, since nothing is more agreeable to a people of busy habits and little leisure, than the light bulk and varied contents of a weekly or monthly issue. Canadian Newspapers, at least of the political order, are sufficiently abundant; local wants and party zeal add to their numbers year by year. The demand for native Quarterly Reviews has scarcely appeared. It may be frankly acknowledged that the literature of the country is yet too young, and the lettered men too few and far between, to afford support to a Review that might attempt to cope with the famous Quarterlies of the mother-land. The Magazine holds an intermediate place, more solid than the newspaper, more popular than the Review. We are persuaded that a healthy literature of this order is wanted in Canada. The circulation of British and American maga-