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TORONTO, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1881.

PUBLISHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

ON account of the Rev. Wm. Inglis having been appointed Librarian to the Ontario Legislature, that gentleman ceases with this issue to be the Editor of THE PRESBYTERIAN; and is, of course, henceforth in no sense responsible for anything which may appear in its columns.

In common, we believe, with the great majority of our readers, we regret that this should have taken place, while at the same time we are pleased to add that it has been caused by no difference of opinion as to the management of the paper, or by any estrangement of feeling between Editor and Publisher, but simply and exclusively for the reason we have mentioned.

Mr. Inglis, we are glad to say, hopes that his new duties will not prevent his being a contributor to our columns; and this fact lessens, in some small degree, the disappointment caused by his sudden withdrawal from the position he so ably filled for the past two years.

Two weeks ago, in our prospectus for the coming year was written, nothing could have been further from our expectation than the turn which affairs have taken. Coming upon us as this has done so suddenly and unexpectedly, we have had some difficulty in making such arrangements as would fully meet the emergency. It is gratifying, however, to be able to say that in this we have succeeded beyond our expectations; and we hope to be able to shew in the coming weeks that THE PRESBYTERIAN not only retains the high position it has already achieved, but that it manifests increased vitality and power in all its departments. Our valued contributors will still continue to enrich our columns with their suggestions and discussions; while we hope to be able to give an increasing number of letters from different parts of the Dominion, as well as from Britain, the States, and foreign fields of Mission labour, in reference to the state and progress of religion in general, and of Presbyterianism in particular.

We have always sought to make the Missions of our own Church a specialty, and shall continue to do so with increasing care and fullness.

But we need not particularize. It shall be our unceasing endeavour to make THE PRESBYTERIAN worthier than ever of the liberal patronage which it has already received; and we rely with fullest confidence on our friends and subscribers cordially and energetically doing their part, and thus enabling us to begin 1882 with a subscription list of at least double the amount we have ever yet possessed. This could easily be done, and were it we should be in a position to make still further improvements upon THE PRESBYTERIAN, and thus render it to a greater extent than ever a power for good both within the Presbyterian Church, and so far also without.

PERSONAL.

IN withdrawing from the Editorship of THE PRESBYTERIAN, and ceasing to have any responsibility in its management after the present issue, we cannot help expressing our unfeigned thanks for the many kind and encouraging words we have received during the past two years. It may possibly have been for a reason the reverse of satisfactory that we have been, during the time we have thus occupied the editorial chair, so free from the worry and fault-finding which are usually said to fall to the lot of those who conduct any kind of newspaper, and especially any of a more or less religious and denominational character. Whether or not this has been the case, so that our

colourless mediocrity may have been our protection against hostile criticism, we shall not say. As a matter of fact, we have been singularly free from angry remonstrances and ill-tempered threats, and can therefore look back over our connection with THE PRESBYTERIAN with grateful satisfaction and all but unalloyed pleasure. Nothing could possibly have been more cordial and in every way satisfactory than the relationships subsisting between the Proprietor and Editor, and we should think it strange indeed if our successor, after, we trust, a much more extended term of office, had any different experience to speak of in this respect than we have had.

We in the strongest terms bespeak for THE PRESBYTERIAN the continued and increased support of the Presbyterians throughout the Dominion. To say that it has had anything like the amount of encouragement it might have had would be absurdly contrary to fact. Perhaps some may reply that had it deserved more it would no doubt have received it. Possibly, but possibly not. We can now speak with greater frankness than in other circumstances would have been either becoming or prudent. Kind and encouraging words we have had in abundance, but the circulation has not gone up, we are sorry to say, correspondingly. In a good many localities all has been done which could reasonably have been expected. In others it has been, and is, very much the reverse. We may be excused if we express a hope that, in the interests of Presbyterianism, 1882 will see "an advance all along the line." Even as it is, we hold THE PRESBYTERIAN is worth all it costs, and if it were better supported it could with little difficulty be made worth a great deal more.

Gratefully acknowledging the kind and encouraging forbearance that has been shewn during the past two years to our editorial shortcomings, we cordially bespeak the continued and increasing favour of the Presbyterians of Canada to this the only newspaper of the kind in the Province of Ontario, as we feel assured that every year will find THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN more vigorous, effective in helping forward the cause of truth and righteousness in the Dominion.

THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE NORTH-WEST.

WE have of late been seeking to interest our readers in the social and religious condition of the settlers in the Canadian North-West, especially of such of them as are professedly connected with the Presbyterian Church. When the foundations of what may, and in all likelihood will, be a mighty empire are being laid, it is surely of pressing desirability that they be laid in truth and righteousness, and that the people have their whole hearts and lives filled and guided by that religion which Christians believe to be in the highest measure calculated to make men bow lowly before their God and stand erect and free in the presence of their fellows.

The work to which the Presbyterian Church in Canada has, in those regions, put its hand is enormous in its dimensions, peculiarly interesting in its character, and in its issues far-reaching and important almost beyond estimate. The demand is urgent, for the religious wants are pressing, and the opportunities for good specially attractive and abundant.

There is one feature of the case, however, which we have not as yet touched upon, and which is usually spoken of in jest if spoken of at all, while too frequently dismissed as of no consequence whatever, at least so far as evangelistic labour and its successful prosecution may be concerned. We refer to the great difference in the proportion of the sexes in that region. When the men are to the women as four or five to one, things cannot possibly be in a right or becoming condition. Men in such circumstances tend rapidly to barbarism and religious indifference. The purifying, humanizing influence of devout and virtuous women in any community cannot be easily exaggerated, and perhaps it is never estimated at its proper worth till it has been to a greater or less extent withdrawn. To point, even in the most distant manner, to the natural and necessary conclusion to be drawn from such remarks may with some provoke a smile, and with others a contemptuous sneer. "Would you have," it might be asked, "a semi-religious organization for providing the Presbyterians of the North-West with servants and wives?" We do not exactly say this, for we do not feel that such an organization