

In the size or shape of the *Record* we have seen no cause to make any alterations. It will, therefore, be continued in all respects as at present, at the same price, 1s per annum, exclusive of postage.

As formerly intimated, we present, with the first January number, each of our subscribers who have paid up to the end of the present year, with a Pictorial number, as an acknowledgment for their attention; of course, none others can expect it until they have complied with these conditions, and which, alone, could justify us in incurring so much additional expense.

In all places where we have Agents, and where the subscribers are not paid up, we will send one copy to the Agent, as a specimen; and so soon as subscribers comply with our terms, we will send to each the Pictorial number.

### THE "LIGHT-SHIP."

[FOR THE RECORD.]

A few months ago, a vessel which had successfully crossed the broad Atlantic, had encountered many a blast, and tossed on many a rough and stormy sea—at length neared the desired haven. Land again visible, was a joyful sound to the wearied passengers; and as the vessel slowly proceeded between the Welsh and Irish coasts, the distant hills, with their changeful hues, now casting their deep shadows, and now standing out in sunny relief, seemed to wear an air of loveliness never before discovered, and to bear a character of happy security, never before appreciated.

Proceeding onward, new sights and objects of interest continually presented themselves to view. One attracted especial attention, and gave rise to many enquiries. It was a vessel of moderate size and peculiar form. One or two sails were set, and the vessel lured and headed, but no progress was apparent on the ocean-path. No Captain, Pilot or sailors were visible; it seemed to carry no cargo—to transport no passengers. It was not a wreck left to the mercy of the angry waves. Evidently it was there for some purpose; it had some end to serve! What could it be? By-and-bye the enigma was solved. The shades of evening closed,

the darkness fell upon the deep waters, when suddenly, from this seemingly idle vessel, there shone out three bright lights, becoming at once, a warning and a guide to the many ships that frequented these dangerous coasts. It was a "*Light Ship*," constructed and anchored there for the single purpose of giving light. It reminded me that the business of the christian was to give light. 1st. Before the christian can make his light useful, like the "*Light ship*," he must be anchored. Were the *Light ship* not anchored in a sure place, but allowed to drift at the will of winds and waves, its lights could be no safe guides; they would not mark the dangerous shoals to be dreaded, or the hidden rocks to be avoided; they would not point out the proper channel which would lead the mariner in safety to port; but aimless and useless, its shining meteors would only bewilder the hapless pilot; perhaps beguile him into danger, if not ruin. Where must the christian be anchored? On Christ. He must have fled to Him for refuge; must be one with him—must be resting on this foundation alone:—He must have Christ for his Saviour, he must come to him for justification and for sanctification. He must trust to Him alone for pardon, for righteousness, for grace—for all he is—for all he needs. All profession without this foundation is a light that serves to destroy, but can never save.

2nd. The christian must carry his light high, that it may be a useful light. The *Light-ship* had its lights suspended high on the mast, in order that they might be seen at a great distance. So the light of truth, when it has once been discovered to and received by a soul, is not to be selfishly confined to its own benefit—it is to be confessed—to be borne aloft—"made manifest"—"set on a hill." Light is a contagious thing, it brightens all it approaches; it shines on all within its influence; it inflames all it touches. So should our love to Christ shine forth, that all can tell, from the halo around us, that we have been with Jesus. This blessed love ever poured into our hearts, should ever flow out in tender compassion to souls in danger of shipwreck; in earnest warnings and entreaties to those who are pursuing a dangerous course, heedless of the breakers they are rushing into.

3d. It was in the darkness the *Light-ship* was specially important. In the day, with the light of the sun shining full upon the voy