

Intelligence, acquaintance with what is going on in the Church, is the only reliable ground of liberality. And the inference is plain; if ministers wish to encourage generosity among their people (and this it is at once their interest and duty to do) they should employ their utmost influence to introduce into their families a publication which is ostensibly devoted to promoting Presbyterianism. It may be set down as an axiom that a people who support the Synod's schemes with intelligent liberality will also do their part well in their own congregations.

No pains have been spared to make this paper interesting and profitable. All the leading religious questions of the day, especially those bearing upon our own Church, are discussed in our editorial columns. The latest and most authentic intelligence that can be gathered regarding our Presbyteries and congregations is given from month to month under the head of "*News of our Church.*" The columns of the Presbyterian are always open to ministers and members of the Church, for the discussion of questions affecting the welfare of the Church, without let or hindrance, the only condition being that "*it be done decently and in order.*" We believe if it had served no other purpose than affording a medium for correspondence, it has been of immense benefit. As there is nothing like ventilating every subject on which there is difference of opinion, discussion being favourable to truth, as light is, according to the teaching of experience, to health; we have never withheld the views of others whenever they did not chance to fall in with our own. And then we have endeavoured to keep our readers informed as to what has been going on in the Christian world, especially in Scotland and the North of Ireland, in which they may be supposed to have the deepest interest. And, in fine, to satisfy the various demands of diversity of taste on the part of readers we have endeavoured to give interesting and instructive selections and items of miscellaneous information. If the *Presbyterian* were a commercial speculation the publishers would employ an agent to visit the various congregations and solicit subscriptions; but looking upon it as much the concern of each minister and elder as it is their own to aid in its circulation, they think that every Kirk Session ought to take the matter in hand. We believe the demise of the periodical would be deemed by even its luke-warm friends as a great

calamity to the Church, as there would then be no channel of communication between different parts of it, and we should be resolved into practical congregationalism, seeing that ecclesiastical matters are but little discussed and lightly esteemed by the secular press of this country. But unless there is a little energy displayed the next year by all that wish its continuance, this event cannot be far off. When it comes it will be too late for them to discover the evil they have brought upon themselves; for it is far easier carrying on a paper that is still living than it is resuscitating one that has died for lack of support.

Let our friends then be on the alert during this month of December, and let us begin the new decade with a large addition to our subscribers. There are about half a dozen congregations that do admirably although in even their case there is room for further activity in this good cause; but we could point out two dozen congregations, amongst the wealthiest in the Church, which do not order five copies each. With regard to any irregularity in the receipt of the *Presbyterian*, we have only to ask subscribers to inform us, as the Post Office must be to blame for it. The lateness of the issue is another point complained of, but as a rule the paper has been out of the printer's hands by the 1st of each month, and it should reach the remotest reader in Canada within the first week. Arrangements are, however, made to have it out two or three days earlier in future.

A WORD TO AGENTS AND SUBSCRIBERS]

Subscribers ordering the *Presbyterian* through Agents, which is the best way to do, need not expect their subscriptions to be acknowledged in the *Presbyterian*, but should take a receipt from the Agent, to whom also they are to look for the paper. Agents or clubs of subscribers ordering the *Presbyterian* are requested not to forward the names of new subscribers, but just the number of copies. But they are particularly requested to *give the names of old subscribers*, so that the latter may not receive two copies, or be *dunned* for a second subscription, as has been the case during the past year.

It having been resolved to discontinue the *Juvenile Presbyterian* after this year, we shall be glad to afford room in the *Presbyterian* for such news respecting the *Juvenile Missions* and *Sabbath Schools* of our