

the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance (Isa. lx., 12.) "Yet, numbers the very hairs of our heads, and knows every sparrow that falleth to the ground," (Matt. x., 29, 30). The minuteness with which God provides, is well brought in the 65th Psalm. Among the services rendered to man by plants, we may notice their employment in preventing the encroachments of the sea, and fixing the loose soil of our shores. The roots and under ground stems extend themselves widely and become interwoven together so as to resustain the soil in a sort of basket work, and consolidate the sand thrown up by the waves. The common bent grass, and sand carex are illustrations of this. The great sea-dyke of Holland is said to owe its stability in a great measure to the plants growing upon it. Plants also increase the quantity of dry land, by growing in the mud deposited by rivers at their mouth. The quantity of mud carried down by rivers is immense. It is stated that the Rhine at Bonn has been calculated to carry down 400 tons of solid matter per hour. The whole of the Delta of the Ganges, comprising 20,000 square miles, has been formed by the river in this way. It is said the muddy nature of the Amazon may be seen in the ocean 300 miles from its mouth. This mud when deposited is speedily taken possession of by plants, and its stability secured. Out of the deposits of the Rhine the greater part of Holland has been formed, and out of those of the Po, a large portion of the venition territory has arisen. The papyrus of the ancients, called the bulrush, in scripture, has contributed in no small degree to form the Delta of the Nile, and the mangrove trees of the present day are thus contributing to the formation of new land in tropical countries. The seeds of the mangrove germinate before being detached from the branches, and when they drop into the loose mud, immediately become trees, with singular stems which divide near the base, and allow the water of the

tide, and the rivers to flow freely between them.

"And such the mangrove, which at full moon flood,
 Appeared itself a wood upon the waters,
 But when the tide left bare its upright roots,
 A wood on piles suspended in the air."

To our Subscriber and Friends.

The December number of the *Record* reminds us of the close of another year, of the omissions of the past, and the duties and obligations of the future.

As already intimated in the prospectus of our next volume, enclosed in our present number, it will be seen that the *Record* will be continued for another year, strictly upon the conditions therein set forth;—payment in advance, or promise of payment by those known to the publisher, before the first of July, 1856. We hope that subscribers will see the justice and reasonableness of these conditions. The *Record* has never paid its expenses, owing to the large number that have been remiss in remitting the amount of subscription, and to attempt the collection of such a number of small sums, scattered over such an extent of country as the whole of Canada, is impossible, except at an expense altogether disproportioned to the amount due by individual subscribers.

We again cast ourselves upon the Churches and Sabbath Schools of Canada, in the hope that they will sustain the *Record*; and it will be our continued endeavour to make it worthy of their support.

It will be observed from the prospectus, above referred to, that in future no less than five will be sent to one address, and that one, *gratis*, will be sent for every five ordered. For instance, for one dollar sent, 5 copies of the *Record* will be furnished.

Attention is also directed to the accounts enclosed in the present number, and parties interested are earnestly requested to remit before the close of the present year.