

The Presbyterian ;

A MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS RECORD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE LAY ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL.

CONTENTS.

	Page		Page		Page
THE PRESBYTERIAN.		London Tract Society	6	Missionary Societies, &c.	15
Appeal to our Readers and Subscribers	1	The late Peace Convention,	6	To CORRESPONDENTS	16
Sabbath Desecration	1	Thoughts on the Seals, Trumpets, &c.	9	FRENCH Mission Fund	16
THE CHURCH IN CANADA.		Mr. Fettes again!	9	LAY Association	16
Presbytery of Bathurst	2	MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.		SUBSCRIPTIONS to the <i>Presbyterian</i>	16
CORRESPONDENCE.		Jubilee of the Church of England Missionary Society	12	ADVERTISEMENTS	16
The Christian Ministry, No. IV.	2	Society	14		
Papery and Democracy, No. II.	3	Jews' Conversion	14		

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The Presbyterian.

AN APPEAL TO OUR READERS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

In our December number we urged upon our readers and friends the necessity of exerting themselves on our behalf, and we again renew the request we then made to them. The present is the first number of our Second Volume; and this is consequently a seasonable time for renewing subscriptions and obtaining new names to the list. In anticipation of our appeal being extensively responded to, we have thrown off a few additional copies of this number, so that we may be enabled to supply new subscribers. We trust our readers will bear with us in urging our claims upon their attention. We do so, because of our extreme anxiety to see "*The Presbyterian*" become a *strictly self-supporting* Journal. The expense, or even a proportion of it, should not fall upon the Lay Association, under whose auspices it is published. That Association has so many demands made upon it, and there are so many means of turning to a useful account the limited funds at its disposal, that, if the members of our Church throughout the Province do not contribute to the support of its Three Schemes, (which, it is earnestly trusted, they will in the course of the coming year see it their duty to do), they should at least relieve it from any greater liability with regard to *The Presbyterian*, than the amount that the respective subscriptions to it of the several members of the Association would cover. We again repeat that we confidently rely upon the kindness of our friends, and believe that they will not relax, but, on the contrary, increase their ef-

forts to extend the circulation of our Journal. We look back with pleasure to its commencement. After anxious consideration, it was decided to make an attempt to occupy the field, which, it was believed, was opening up before us. With some doubt, with many fears, the first number was issued. Orders at once flowed in, and the second month exhibited a large list of subscribers, while each successive month has shown a slow, but gradually progressive, increase. We are truly desirous that this should continue—we feel confident that there is material enough to be found in connection with our Church, to maintain an unflagging interest amongst our readers in the contents of our sheet; and we believe that this material can be made available. Hitherto, with the exception of a few parties to whom we are under especial obligations for their assistance, the whole labour has devolved upon the Committee, but this should not continue to be the case in future. There is a rich mine of talent lying undeveloped amongst our brethren of the Laity; and we solicit communications from them. Again, is it too much to expect that each of our Clergymen would prepare at least one article for our columns annually? We hope not, and we believe that it has only to be hinted to them, to ensure their acting upon the suggestion.

While then we ask their increased exertions to extend our circulation, we solicit communications from the Clergymen and Laymen of our Church; and, if these requests are acceded to, we believe that *The Presbyterian* will at once start into greater usefulness, and will assume a position as a Religious Journal second to none in the Province.

SABBATH DESECRATION.

In our May number we made an extract from the *Halifax Guardian*, commenting upon the legalised system of Sabbath desecration, which has unhappily been so long in force in this part of the Province.

The evil is a crying one, and so wholly repugnant to the feelings of all, who consider the Sabbath to be "a holy day unto the Lord," that our contemporary might well express surprise at its existence. Numerous efforts have heretofore been made to effect some change of the law in this respect, but hitherto without success. As it is, however, now generally understood that a measure for the revision of the Judiciary system is in progress, and will be presented to the Legislature for approval in the course of the ensuing session, the present juncture is a most suitable one for a combined effort to abate this outrage upon the Divine law; and we call upon all denominations of Christians in Lower Canada to unite in a respectful but firm remonstrance to the Legislature against the perpetuation of this practice. The doing away of sales at the Church-doors, and the forbidding of legal proceedings on the Lord's day, cannot, we conceive, in any way infringe on the rights or offend the prejudices of any class of the people. It may be said, that our Roman Catholic neighbours do not view the obligations of the day in the same light as we do; but the laxity of their ideas on the subject is no reason for the perpetuation of these objectionable proceedings, nor for our silent acquiescence in what we believe to be a moral wrong of the deepest dye. To say "Am I my brother's keeper," or to remain calmly and inactively looking on without any attempt to remove what we consider to be a foul blot on our provincial escutcheon,