

THE

HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD

OF

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

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VOL. IV

A WORD TO SUBSCRIBERS AND FRIENDS.

We direct attention to the terms of the *Record*, which will be found on the cover. We shall be glad to receive new lists from the various congregations, and would earnestly request the co-operation of congregational agents.

Prompt remittances are requested both on account of the new volume and past arrears. Last month accounts were sent to most of those in arrears. Where there has been any error or mistake, it will be cheerfully corrected. In some cases accounts were inadvertently sent to friends who act as agents for the *Record*.

Where the postage is not prepaid, it will be of importance that parcels of the *Record* should be addressed to some individual. The postage will thus be less.

Every effort will be made to obtain as much missionary intelligence as possible, especially with reference to the operations of our own Church, and to make the *Record*, in other respects, useful and interesting to the members of the Church.

STATE OF RELIGION, NO. II.

FAMILY RELIGION.

Personal religion is a matter between one's own soul and God. A stranger cannot meddle with it. If a man's outward walk is in agreement with the standard of duty furnished in the Word of Truth he must pass, in the eye of the world for a religious man. But may there not be such a walk, although the heart has not been regenerated by the power of the Holy Ghost sent down from on high? - All that Church courts and office-bearers can demand of those who declare themselves disciples of Jesus Christ, is a certain amount of religious knowledge and a conversation becoming the gospel. No man can look in upon the soul of this fellow and discern that it has been created anew, yet this change is essential before there can be true vital piety.

Next in the order of history to personal religion, comes FAMILY RELIGION. The family is the earliest and simplest form of society, and religion was designed to leaven with its influence, to sanctify and ennoble by its power every phase and part of the social circle. It is in the household circle that the social principle has its first existence and manifestation, and man was created a social being, for God saw that it was not good for him to be alone. It is, moreover, from the first relation of the household that all other relations which are to be found among the human family take their origin. That first relation is the one that is formed in the marriage covenant, and it is the fountain of every other. We have thus husband and wife, and in their connexion we have the closest, tenderest, and most influential exercise, as we have the first development, of the social principle. And here there is the first opportunity or the institution and maintenance of Family Religion; and married persons should, from the very commencement of their married life, worship with