

Letter of Explanation.

To All Whom it May Concern.

In asking you to co-operate, I should give some further and fuller information concerning this periodical. Allow me briefly to "narrate the steps" which have brought it about.

For the last two years in attending the meetings of some of the Boards of our Church, I found that the main question, in almost every instance, was, how to make the income do the work. A problem that yet remains unsolved.

I often thought that if the Church could be present at these meetings and hear all that was said and done, there would be no lack of funds, and that if the information could be got before the people they would give more for God's work. Men like to know what they are giving for, they cannot be expected to give otherwise; the more they know about any object the more, if it be a good one, will they do for it.

Acting on this principle I tried to spread the knowledge of our Church work, and thus deepen the interest in it by means of the *Record*; and at the beginning of the present year succeeded in raising its circulation from 80 to 106 in my own congregation.

When this was done I felt that yet more was needed. The Church is large. The *Record* is small, and rightly so that its price may bring it within reach of every one. It must give an account of Home, Foreign, College, Supplementing, and French Evangelization Work, etc., etc., both in the East and West. There is much interesting matter, such as letters from missionaries, reports of preachers and catechists, etc., of which it can give but a small part.

If the editorial work of a small monthly could be done for nothing, so that with a limited circulation it could be made to pay for itself at 25 cents per annum, it could supplement the news which the *Record* gives with regard to the whole Church, by additional local matter, and supply to some extent the need.

Such a periodical I am now undertaking. The MARITIME PRESBYTERIAN will be issued, D. V., on or before the 15th of each month, coming midway between the issues of the *Record*. The claims of Christ's work will be brought before the Church fortnightly instead of monthly, and with increasing knowledge it is hoped there will be a growing interest.

I am willing to run the risk of pecuniary loss. If there be any gain it goes to help on the work of the Church. If the circulation is sufficiently large it will perhaps be devoted to the support of a teacher or native missionary in some of our foreign fields.

As I have no personal ends to serve in the matter, no gain to look for, nothing but labor, the risk of loss, and the awakening if I may, to any extent, of a deeper interest in the work of the Church and the increase of its working power—its funds, I feel warranted in asking all who may approve of the object in view and of my way of seeking it to give their influence and effort in securing subscribers.

Single copies may appear high priced in comparison with the parcels; or rather the parcels are cheap when compared with single copies, for the old *Home and Foreign Record*, which was no larger, was 50 cents in parcels, single copies 60 cents. The difference in the present instance is made in order to induce parties in a congregation to unite and have but one account and their papers sent to one address so that my work in keeping accounts may be reduced to a minimum. If it be sent in single copies or in small packages, and accounts kept with many, it will be impossible to do the work without paid assistance, and that will at once increase the cost of the paper which should be kept as low as possible.

Payment must be in advance for I have to pay for the paper in advance and for the printing as each number is issued.

Subscribers will please pay, not for the whole year but to the close of the present year, that the keeping of accounts may be simplified and the labor connected therewith be made as small as possible.

Commending my paper to the good will and good offices of my fellow workers and to Him whose kingdom it will strive to extend, I send it forth to its work.

E. SCOTT.

New Glasgow, April 15, 1881.