

# THE PRESBYTERIAN.

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## Special Notice.

The prompt payment of subscriptions for the PRESBYTERIAN, especially by those in arrear, is urgently requested. The issue of *free* copies will henceforth be discontinued, without any exceptions whatsoever. If, therefore, there are any parties now receiving the paper who do not wish to pay for it, they are requested to give us immediate notice of their desire to have their names withdrawn from our despatch list. At the same time we renew our earnest entreaty to ministers and agents in congregations, for all the assistance and encouragement which is in their power to offer us. We want a large increase in the number of *paying* subscribers, and we want to be supplied with information by Presbytery clerks and all others who are conversant with church matters. We cannot make bricks without straw.

✂ Until further notice the PRESBYTERIAN will be despatched from the office of publication, and all remittances will be directed to Mr. JOHN LOVELL, Montreal. Communications intended for insertion in our columns will be addressed, as formerly, to the Editor of the PRESBYTERIAN, Montreal.

ANOTHER year will have passed into eternity before the words we are now writing reach most of our readers. It has been an eventful year, crowded with incident, full of changes for the nations as well as for individuals; marked by the fall of one great Empire; the sudden yet not altogether unexpected elevation of another to the highest rank among European powers, accomplishing the welding together into one people of the North Germans, who for years have sighed, but apparently in vain, for a United Germany. It opens, too, the prospect before many years have passed, of a closer alliance, if not entire unity, between the two great divisions of Germany, hitherto separate and even antagonistic.

The religio-political organization known as the Romish Church has suffered the loss of its temporal possessions, and the King of Italy, driven by the force of circumstances as men say, but really as every Christian must believe, by the overruling providence of God, has taken possession of Rome, in one corner of which sits the Pope, refusing to show himself abroad and still fulminating his decrees, declared to be infallible by the voice of a majority of the Bishops summoned together to decree what had already been resolved upon by the politicians by whom he was surrounded. So quickly did the reverse follow the high sounding words proclaiming the blasphemous assumption of infallibility, that the vision of Daniel of the Little Horn, would seem to be literally fulfilled. "He shall speak great words against the Most High." "But the judgment shall sit, and they shall rake away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end." Every indication points to the flight of the Pope from Rome, and it is not improbable that he may yet seek the refuge in British territory which the Roman Catholic powers are either unable or unwilling to afford him. In Spain the power of the Romish priesthood has been materially abridged; the free exercise of religious worship has been provided for; the Bible has had free circulation; civil marriage has been established and stranger step than all, Bishops and priests have been arrested and imprisoned for sedition, those of them who refused to swear to the new constitution have been deprived of the emoluments they derived from the State, and they have been made to understand that their allegiance as subjects was due to the State, and that under the name of religion they could not be suffered to conspire against its political existence. In Italy there have been outbreaks against the priesthood; Austria, Hungary and other Catholic powers have intimated their dissent from the dogma of infallibility and