

Learning from the experience of the past the Church is, in our own day, accomplishing much by means of the writings of its ministers and members. The press is teeming with innumerable books, periodicals, pamphlets, and tracts, which, by God's blessing, are among the mightiest instruments for counteracting error, and promoting the cause of truth and righteousness. This is especially the case in the older countries, where men of learning have more leisure for authorship, and where there is a wider market for the productions of the press. In a new country like our own there is so much hard work to be done in laying the foundations of the Church that little leisure and energy for authorship are left. Still some valuable Christian literature has been produced in Canada; and the time seems now to have arrived when we should avail ourselves more fully of the instrumentality of the press. So far as the Presbyterian Church is concerned, its members and adherents are sufficiently numerous to produce a fair demand for a Canadian Christian literature, and we have surely learning and talent enough to produce a fair supply. The union also of the various branches of the Church in the Dominion makes it more likely that Canadian books or tracts will find a wider circulation. In former years a Presbyterian writer could expect to be read by few beyond his own branch of the Church; he may now expect to find readers throughout the whole Presbyterian Church in Canada. Nor can it be doubted but that our people would read with deeper interest the productions of writers with whom they were acquainted, than of authors of other and distant lands. The necessity, moreover, is great of our availing ourselves of the instrumentality of the press. Here, as well as elsewhere, irreligious and heretical publications are widely circulated, and it is scarcely the duty of the minister in the pulpit to be constantly turning aside from the direct work of preaching the gospel, and enforcing its precepts, to the task of meeting and refuting every new phase of error. This can be better done by means of the press. The doctrines of our Church also are often misunderstood or misrepresented by persons who seldom come within the range of Presbyterian pulpits, and who are most likely to be set right by tracts or books in which the articles of our faith are clearly stated and explained. In the same way also it might be expected that our Scriptural form of Church Government might be so exhibited as to confirm the loyalty of our own people, and fairly meet the objections of those who deny the identity of Bishops and Presbyters.

There are various ways in which a Presbyterian literature might be produced in Canada. One very simple and effective method might be initiated by a minister within the bounds of his own congregation. Some topics might press on his mind as needing special attention on the part of his hearers. They might need special instruction in regard to matters of doctrine or duty, or might need to be guarded against prevalent errors. Besides preaching on such topics he might compose and circulate tracts embodying the views he wished to inculcate. Such tracts would undoubtedly be read with the greatest attention by his own people, and would probably prove more effective than larger treatises. They might ultimately find their way to other congregations, and prove a blessing to the whole Church. The expense of their publication would be but trifling, and might be borne by some of the wealthier members of the congregation, who would find this an excellent method of co-operating with