

THE PRESBYTERIAN is really a first-class paper, and should receive a wide and liberal support.—*Guelph Mercury*
Mr. Inglis is one of the foremost writers on the Canadian Press.—*Montreal Witness*.

THE

CANADA PRESBYTERIAN

Edited by Rev. William Inglis.

NINTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION!

Reduction in Price!!

In making the announcements in connection with the forthcoming volume of THE PRESBYTERIAN, it is not our intention to indulge in anything like extravagant promises of future excellence. We prefer being judged by our past attainments. Ever since the issue of the first number our course has been steadily onward, until, at the present time, THE PRESBYTERIAN occupies a position second to no other denominational journal in the Dominion. It is scarcely necessary to add that there will be no going back on this record. Both Editor and Publisher will spare no efforts likely to render THE PRESBYTERIAN increasingly useful to its ever-growing circle of readers; and able writers, in various parts of the world, will aid by their valuable contributions to give variety and interest to its columns.

During the ensuing year all the old departments, heretofore so popular, will be continued. A new and attractive serial tale will shortly be commenced; the exposition of the International Lessons, so highly prized by Sabbath school teachers and others, will still receive the measure of attention which so important a subject demands; and it goes without saying that the editorial columns will continue to be characterized by independence of tone and vigour of statement. In short our aim will be to make THE PRESBYTERIAN more and more worthy of the hearty support of the Church, and more widely useful to all the great interests involved.

CIRCULATION!

The general improvement manifested in many branches of trade, the plentiful crops and good prices, render this a favourable season for extending the circulation of THE PRESBYTERIAN. In this good cause we invite all to labour. It only requires cordial co-operation in the various congregations of the Church to give THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN

12,000 to 15,000 Subscribers.

That this is no wild estimate the experience of last year amply demonstrates. If the exertions of several kind friends who in 1880 sent us goodly lists were only generally imitated, even the larger figure would be far exceeded. To render this easy of accomplishment we have decided to reduce the price of the paper to

\$1.50 in Clubs of 20 and over!

with the balance of the year free to new subscribers. A club of twenty can be easily reached in every congregation, while in many localities it can be doubled and trebled, if friends only help. Let some one in each congregation see that every member and adherent is canvassed. With such a paper at the low price of \$1.50, in clubs of twenty, the result cannot be doubtful.

We do not ask assistance in this connection without being willing to give something in return. Our Premium List includes a number of valuable articles which will be forwarded to getters up of Clubs, as an acknowledgment of exertions in behalf of the paper.

The work of canvassing for THE PRESBYTERIAN will be rendered all the easier when the character and great merit of the

PREMIUM ENGRAVING OFFERED

TO EVERY SUBSCRIBER

is taken into account. We have secured the beautiful and appropriate picture, entitled

"The Word of God,"

after a painting by Mr. H. Larpent Roberts, R.A., and engraved by Mr. Arthur Willmore. The size is 24 x 30; and the subject—the Parable of the Sower—is so handled by the artist that you have four distinct pictures in the one engraving—the execution altogether being remarkably fine.

The pair of Premium Engravings sent out last year were received with unusual favour; but we believe that the one now offered will even more heartily commend itself to our patrons, because of its intrinsic value and great beauty.

This fine engraving will be securely mailed, postage prepaid, to EVERY SUBSCRIBER paying \$2 in advance for 1881, or who joins a club at reduced rates.

CLUB RATES FOR 1881:

Terms of subscription, \$2 per year. In clubs of 6 to 19, \$1.65 each, with Premium Engraving to every subscriber; 20, and over, at \$1.50 each, with Premium Engraving to every subscriber. In the formation of clubs old and new subscribers count alike—the only restriction made is that no one in arrears shall be taken.

Premium List free on application.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,

Toronto, 26th Oct., 1880.

Publisher.

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

* \$2.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, *Proprietor*,
OFFICE—NO. 6 JORDAN ST., TORONTO.

Edited by Rev. Wm. Inglis.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1880.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

WE call special attention to the letter of Dr. McVicar, to be found in another column. As will be seen, the funds of that department of our Church work are at present very low. No doubt many will adopt the Doctor's suggestion and give a liberal collection on Thanksgiving day to aid these Evangelistic efforts among the French Canadians of our sister Province, which have been already so greatly blessed, and which give every promise of being still more so in coming days.

HOME MISSION FUND.

THE state of the Home Mission Fund at the present time is not so satisfactory as could be desired, for we learn from the minutes of the last meeting of the Home Mission Committee that the receipts from 1st of May, including balance from last year, amounted, on the 1st of October, to only \$2,306.02, while the expenditure, up to the same date, had been \$16,832.28, leaving a balance against the fund, at the beginning of the current month, of \$14,526.26. It is quite true that the part of the financial year already past is always the least productive, and that the fact of there being at present such a large deficit is consequently no reason for anticipating any ultimate difficulty in meeting all the demands upon the Fund. But it is never to be forgotten that the claims which have already been examined and sanctioned must be met immediately, unless a very great amount of positive suffering is to be inflicted upon the missionaries of the Church. As things now stand this implies borrowing from the bank, and such borrowing cannot, of course, be accomplished without paying handsomely for the accommodation. The oft-pressed recommendation of frequent collections and remittances of mission funds to the General Treasurers is but very partially attended to. Hence this difficulty and ultimate loss to the Church. It is worse than absurd to be paying interest on borrowed money when the cash which will ultimately have to pay for those advances might just as well as not be timeously supplied for the purpose. It would, of course, require an effort at first to get things into right working order, but the good to be thus secured is a great deal more than worth all the effort. It is quite true that in most congregations the sum collected for missionary purposes throughout the year are allocated at meetings held in January, February or March. But what is to prevent the different missionary treasurers from forwarding what they receive or the understanding that the allocation be the same as in the previous year, and then any change thought desirable might be adjusted by the congregation, at its annual meeting, so distributing the funds then in hand as to fully realize its present wishes? We suspect a good number of people would be quite astonished if they were told how much was each year absorbed in paying interest on borrowed money, or, which amounts to the same thing—nay, even worse—was so long left unpaid as to force ministers and missionaries to go into debt, and thus to pay interest to storekeepers, for the dilatoriness of the Church, in personal mortification as well as in enhanced prices.

Very properly the Home Mission Committee, at its late meeting, adopted the following resolution:

"The General Assembly having enjoined the Home Mission Committee to equalize the revenue and expenditure of the fund each year, the Committee, after careful consideration of the claims of the work, find that \$35,000 is the lowest sum with which the work can be efficiently carried on for the current year. They have made grants and assumed responsibilities to this extent in the confident hope that the required amount will be obtained, and they earnestly appeal to the Presbyteries and sessions of the Church to use all diligence to secure liberal contributions to enable the Committee to meet their liabilities and end the year free from debt."

All very well that the year should be ended by all liabilities being met, but things will never be in a proper condition till the funds are so supplied that the different obligations of the Church to its different missionary agents shall be discharged as they are due, not by borrowing money from the banks, but by having on hand the free-will offerings of the people. Very many congregations take up their missionary contributions every month. What becomes of the money thus collected? It is very evidently not sent to the Assembly's treasurers. Is it lying in the different banks, without bearing interest, or have the congregational treasurers the use of it till the yearly missionary meeting comes round? Monthly missionary contributions are found to be most productive. Are monthly remittances not the necessary complements of such collections?

At any rate it is exceedingly desirable that the funds of the Church should not be raised by spasmodic spurts, and only when things are getting to be all but desperate, and it is felt that something has to be done. Appeals for extraordinary efforts, if made frequently, soon lose all power for good. People become indifferent, or even something worse, when the so-called extraordinary becomes simply use and wont. What is needed is not a big extra effort and done with it, but a steady increase of liberality in giving and a judicious and regular system for securing that the proceeds of that liberality shall find their way into the coffers of the Church, so as to keep individuals from unnecessary anxiety and the Church from unnecessary and unprofitable outlay. Last year, about this time, great anxiety was felt and expressed in reference to the future of the Home Mission Fund. Many letters were written to THE PRESBYTERIAN and many urgent appeals from the pulpit and platform were made to the Presbyterian churches throughout the Dominion. The result was that all the liabilities were ultimately discharged and a small surplus was carried to next account. The amount required this year is not so large as that which caused all the anxiety a twelve-month ago. But let it not be supposed that it can easily be raised by allowing things to drift on in the ordinary use and wont way, without any increase being made by contributors to what they have been in the habit of giving in past years. The giving will not only have to be more regular, systematic and general, but also on an increased scale of liberality, if mortifying deficits, such as have been only too common in the past, in our various missionary funds have not again to be acknowledged and deplored at the end of the current financial year. If all were to add fifty per cent. to their previous contributions, the whole of our Church finance would bear a very different aspect. And how many could say that even then they would be giving on a scale of extraordinary liberality—even above the rate at which the Lord had blest their basket and their store—and out of proportion to what they spend on needless luxuries, selfish pleasures and personal comforts. It is a mortifying, yet an indubitable fact that many of God's people spend more money on a single entertainment—and that by no means a solitary or an annual one—than they devote to all the different missionary schemes of the Church for the current twelvemonth. Surely nobody can say that this is as it ought to be. How does the yearly bill for intoxicating liquors, even, in many cases, look, when placed side by side with all that has been given for Evangelistic purposes in our own and other lands, during the same period? We should hope that many even of God's true children would be rendered uncomfortable by the quiet, solitary and prayerful comparison and contrast.

The question with each is not "What do other people think I ought to give?" or "What do I suspect that they think I ought to give?" But it is "What, with my acknowledgments, professions, and promises, made both in the closet and at the table of the Lord, would it—all things considered, as I know them and as God knows—be decent and proper, and proportionate for me to contribute?" It is a poor thing for every one to begin and judge his neighbour in this matter, but if every one were to "judge" himself and herself and act accordingly, the end would be gained and the deficits would permanently disappear.

AN address, accompanied by a purse, was presented to Mr. Craig, the student who has been labouring in connection with the Horning's Mills and Honeywood congregation, on the occasion of his leaving for Knox College.