

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

DECEMBER, 1869.

All communications intended for insertion are requested to be sent to "The Editor of Presbyterian, Drawer O, P. O., Montreal." Remittances and letters on business should be addressed to MR. JAMES WARDLOW, London and Liverpool and Globe Insurance Company, Montreal."



WITH this number our twenty-second year ends. Would that we could say it ends prosperously! The new postal regulations, which went into effect a year ago, making it necessary that the publishers should pre-pay the postage, have entailed a fresh burden upon this periodical. Three years ago it was resolved to furnish a free copy to every minister on the Synod Roll, and in consequence 179 copies monthly are distributed at a heavy expense. This action was taken with the generous view of placing our ministers upon an equal footing with the parish ministers in Scotland, who receive the *Record* gratuitously. But the Lay Association in so resolving might very naturally suppose that they should not lose by their action, as the ministers might feel themselves called upon to bestir themselves in the interests of the publication. The result has not justified such expectations, if they were entertained. By putting the ministers on the free list the publishers have, in some cases, robbed themselves of the only paying subscriber in a congregation. It was furthermore resolved, during the last two years, to offer more liberal terms to subscribers paying in advance, and to clubs taking at least five copies, in the hope of extending the circulation and giving our readers the benefit thus derived; but this offer has not been so largely taken advantage of as to pay for the reduction. In short, the publication of the *Presbyterian* has been carried on at a considerable financial loss for the year 1869. But this is a state of things that cannot be indefinitely prolonged. After struggling on with more or less prosperity for twenty-two

years the *Presbyterian* must at length expire for want of support, at a time when both the number of families connected with our Church and their ability to pay for it are double of what they were at the first starting of the periodical, unless our ministers and others, who, we shall not say, have an interest in *its continuance*, but who have an interest in *the prosperity of our Church*, exert themselves by way of promoting its circulation. Only 1,308 paying subscribers in a Church which numbers at least 16,000 communicants! How different is it with the Wesleyans, every family of whom reads the *Guardian*! And the result is manifest. The Wesleyans have a strong attachment to their Church, and work for it with a will, with a consequent rapidity of growth and power that is remarkable. Why should not the *Presbyterian* have an entrance into every house that professes attachment to the Church of Scotland? Is there anything unreasonable in the publishers thinking that the circulation should be at least 5,000 instead of 1,500 per month? And this they think could be easily brought about if the ministers exercised their legitimate influence in its behalf. We are unwilling to be found our own advocates; but may be permitted to state what is at least a singular coincidence. An examination of the returns to the Synod's schemes and of the published subscriptions to Queen's College, and a comparison with our subscription list, show that those congregations, in which there is the greatest number of readers of the *Presbyterian*, have, when their means are taken into account, been by far the most liberal in their support of the operations of the Church. This is only a result which might be expected.