

# The Presbyterian;

## A MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS RECORD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE LAY ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL.

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### The Presbyterian.

#### TO OUR READERS.

As we are now verging towards the close of the year, and as the present number terminates the first year of our labours, we may be permitted to offer a few remarks on a subject which, though a delicate one, very materially concerns our future usefulness.

"The *Presbyterian*," it is known to our readers, originated in a desire to promote the circulation of Missionary and Religious intelligence amongst the adherents of our Church. It was believed "that a paper was much wanted, which, while it should afford ample information upon all points of interest connected with the Parent Church, should at the same time, by discarding all matters of merely local consequence, make room for statements of the progress of the Gospel in Canada, and of the success of the more important Missionary enterprises of Evangelical Christians of all denominations throughout the world." *The Presbyterian* was in short designed to be a Religious Journal, which, while it devoted a larger portion of its space to the immediate interests of that portion of the Church, of which the Lay Association, under whose auspices it has been conducted, is a humble auxiliary, should yet be characterized by no narrow sentiments of illiberality or bigotry. In the first number those entrusted with its management avowed themselves "to be more desirous of healing the wounds inflicted on the Church than of tearing them open afresh." Their hope was so to conduct *The Presbyterian* as in, some measure, although in a necessarily, limited way, to aid in producing an

elevated tone of Christian character, and so excite a friendly feeling towards the Missionary work amongst their readers by presenting the delineations, given by Missionaries from their own observation, of the sad degradation and wretchedness in which the myriads of those who know not the True God, and Jesus Christ Whom He hath sent, are plunged."

How far the design, with which *The Presbyterian* was established, has been carried out—how far the promises, with which it was ushered into existence, have been fulfilled, is not for us to say, nor are we the best judges in such a case. But this at least we can affirm, that, if in any measure we have been wanting, as we doubtless often have been, the fault was an undesigned one. So anxious are we to see an increasing interest taken in our publication that any suggestions from any of our readers will be gladly received, and promptly acted on, when practicable. We are very desirous of seeing our List of Subscribers so extended that *The Presbyterian* may find its way into the families of every member of our Church throughout the Province. We would gladly see it, or some other religious paper, entering every house in every district of the Province, because we believe that, in the words of an intelligent writer, "there are millions of minds which can only be reached through the press," and that "the press should not be, and must not be left in the hands of the men of the world and the motley crew of all grades of scepticism." "Does it minister to their idol-god, and shall it not minister to the One Living and True God?" "If infidels and immoral writers are pouring forth a deluge of scepticism and vice, the conductors of the religious press

should send forth a higher and more mighty flood to sweep the turbid streams which the press is too often prostituted to issue." We believe that Christians are bound by the highest of all obligations to support the religious press; and therefore it is, that, as a young and humble member of that, now happily wide, fraternity, we claim the support of our fellow-Christians, and call upon them to aid our feeble efforts.

We have no fear of being thought "unworldly" in these remarks, for it must be evident to every one that, the wider the circulation a religious paper attains, the more good it is likely to effect. Besides, we wish our readers to remember that *The Presbyterian* is no mere trading speculation, as are ordinary papers, since the labours of its conductors are gratuitous, and the expenses incurred are all contracted within the narrowest possible limit. When it was determined to issue the paper at the lowest possible rate, so as to bring it within the reach of the most limited means, on a calculation being made, the Publishers liberally offered to throw off the sheets for a sum that would barely cover the amount expended in payment of the necessary labour. To meet the outlay for paper, publishing, &c., the Association requires to be placed in funds by prompt remittances of the outstanding subscriptions; and we trust that not only will this be done, but that a combined and extensive effort will be made to obtain new subscribers. The number already issued is large, but not sufficient to cover the expenses incurred; nor is it at all commensurate with the number that might be circulated, if but a fourth of the fathers of families in full connection with our Church were subscribers. What