

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

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HE present is the last number of another volume, and we are gratified to find that, during the year now almost at an end, the number of our subscribers has increased to some extent. There is still, however, room for improvement in this respect, and we would express the hope that our friends will exert themselves to send us additions to the lists of subscribers for the volume for 1869. It is important to the interests of the Church that the only periodical devoted to the advocacy of its views should have an adequate support. By the increased power thus given we shall be enabled to make improvements, and shall be encouraged to do so, and the schemes of the Church will also, we are convinced, be benefited by the increased publicity given to their operations. In some of our congregations the work of obtaining subscribers has been undertaken by lay associations connected with them, and some machinery of this kind might easily be adopted in all.

There have been defects, doubtless, in the management; these are unavoidable, even with the utmost care. Complaints have reached us occasionally, and although we have tried to give as little cause for these as possible, yet in the difficulty of putting everything into the limited compass of one number each month, and the necessity of suiting all tastes, we may have erred in judgment as to the relative importance of various articles. For shortcomings we must throw ourselves upon the forbearance of our subscribers, as, after all, though editors are supposed to be equal to every occasion, and able to solve every difficulty, they are but mortal. There are interesting questions to be discussed, the solution of

which is of importance to the Church. Upon these, different opinions must be held and should be expressed. We repeat, therefore, that the pages of the *Presbyterian* are open to both sides, as long as the arguments are conducted in a proper spirit, whether the views expressed are in accordance with those of the majority, or the minority of the members of the Church. No one need be afraid his communications will be excluded because the opinions contained in them may differ from ours. When they overstep the fair limits of argument, the editor's pen will unhesitatingly strike out the obnoxious matter, or if that cannot be done without destroying the communication, it will be refused insertion. This, even the most exacting will, we trust, acknowledge to be a just rule. We wish to have variety and freshness, and there are sufficient numbers, not of ministers only, but of others of our body, to ensure this if they would only take the trouble to do so. Many, however, will not take the trouble to send even a few lines regarding events that are taking place, on the plea that it is not worth while. All the events taking place within one congregation are of interest to the other congregations. The ordination or induction of ministers or elders, the operations of Sabbath schools, social gatherings and all those small events which make up the life of a congregation, are of interest, and show what is doing, and whether a charge is alive or dead. But correspondents need not enter into minute details, nor, we say it with all due deference to those who think otherwise, is it desirable to republish the text of addresses and replies passing between a minister and his people. The statement of the fact is, generally speaking, sufficient, and it has been only on very rare occasions that we have broken through the rule of merely chronicling the fact. But that fact we wish to have, and in spite of the strictures of one of our correspondents, we believe