

beneficial in two ways. First, it would serve as a salutary check on the majority, and tend to secure moderation in its procedure ; and secondly, it would afford a safety valve for the opinions and the feelings of the minority, which if kept confined might gather strength, and by and by produce an explosion. It is of great importance that sentiment should get vent. If it is absurd or erroneous, publicity is the most legitimate, and at the same time the most effectual, and the least dangerous and troublesome mode of extinguishing it. Your Magazine, if continued, would inevitably be the periodical of the minority, which, I presume, I may call the more advanced party ; and as I belong to that party I may be allowed to say that I cordially wish it all success.

But *pro contra*, I should deprecate the continuation of the Magazine, unless efficiency be secured. Failure would be unspeakably worse than cessation. The former would be humiliating, the latter not at all. Now in order to efficiency two things are necessary : First, a sufficient body of subscribers who will *bonâ fide*, make regular payment. Unless this be duly guaranteed I should say desist at once. There can clearly be no want of ability to give you all the support that is needed, but the will also is indispensable. Let some reasonable method, then, be adopted, without delay, for ascertaining not what receivers, nor what readers, but what payers of the Magazine could be calculated on. Allow a margin of ten per cent. to meet casualties, and let the result form one chief element for determining the question whether you should go on or not. But secondly, proper arrangement respecting the editing and conducting of the Magazine is equally essential. You purpose that this shall be the work of laymen. Now that would be attended with some advantages ; and most assuredly, I, as a minister, have no jealousy towards the private members of the church. Most assuredly do I say, would that all the Lord's people were prophets. I have, however, my fears on this score. I make no reference to qualification. Of that there is no lack. But where shall laymen be found in our church who can give the time and attention that are needed ? Most of them have their hands full of their own secular pursuits. It is not, indeed, a very great exploit to furnish thirty-two pages of matter once a month. But then, a great deal of it must be matter of a particular kind and such as does not very readily come in a layman's way ; it must also be forthcoming punctual at the day, whatever business engagements may occur to prevent. Sometimes, very probably, the editor will have an over-supply of materials, and his task will be only to reject what is unsuitable and pacify the authors for the suppression of their incubations. At other times he may find himself with almost nothing. For articles promised, he may receive, near the end of the month, only a sort of semblance of an apology, and unless he can find leisure to stand forward himself, and on the spur of the occasion write a great part of the Magazine, he is fairly in the lurch. Perhaps it will