

add to it until it is complete. These agents are requested to collect over-due subscriptions and renewals, as well as to obtain new subscribers. We hope for very much from their labours. Wherever the work has been earnestly undertaken, it has been invariably successful—at Paris, at Guelph, at Ottawa, at Granby and Montreal (East), notably so.

We would call upon those who have been some time in *ARREARS*, to make a prompt remittance at this season. Their delay, collectively, is the chief cause of our difficulty. We annually "write off" a number of such defaulting subscribers.

The *INDEPENDENT'S* terms are "payable in advance," a fact of which too many of our friends seem to take little note. Accordingly, the address of each subscriber, who has not paid for the new volume (*XIX*) commencing with this number, will have \$1 added to it at the *right hand* side. The proprietors are very indulgent in *enforcing* prepayment. Will not the sense of honour in subscribers, and their interest in the enterprise, ensure promptitude on their part?

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### THE NEW MONTREAL HYMN-BOOK.

During the recent Union Meeting there were distributed proofs of the preface and a few pages of a new hymn-book about to be published by a committee of Zion Church, Montreal. It was originally designed for the week-night services, but may eventually come into use on the Sabbath also. The selection is to number some 400 hymns, about 50 being taken from outside sources, and the remainder from the Sabbath hymn-book. Psalms and Scripture sentences for chanting will be found in an appendix. The book is being printed in a clear, good-sized type, and is to be published at about 30 cents a copy. It is hoped by the committee that other churches may find it suitable to their wants.

The matter thus presented, therefore, invites public comment, and we submit the following observations to all concerned.

It is difficult to exaggerate the influence, and therefore the importance, of a hymn-book. In churches like ours it becomes practically our creed and our liturgy. The permanence of this form of devotion, its reiterated use, and its alliance with all the power of music, give it an incomputable educating force in the family and the church. When sermons, lessons and prayers are forgotten, the hymn is remembered still.

It is of great importance that all the Congregational churches in Canada should use one and the same hymn-book. It is a strong bond of unity. The Scottish psalms and paraphrases and Wesley's hymns have done much to compact the Presbyterian and Methodist churches. We have suffered in the past from too great a diversity of books. Latterly we have been approaching to more unity,—either the English "New Congregational" or the "Sabbath" being adopted by the majority of the churches. But the latter is getting too dear, and has never been portable enough, and some who have learned to love it greatly have been compelled to give it up; while the former is confessedly superannuated, a supple-