

The Presbyterian Review.

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY, from the office of the Publishers, Rooms No. 20, 21, 22, 25 Aberdeen Block, South-East corner Adelaide and Victoria Streets.

TERMS, \$1.50 per annum.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Under 3 months, 15 cents per line per insertion; 3 months, \$1.00 per line, 6 months, \$1.75 per line; 1 year, \$3.00. No advertisement charged at less than five lines. None other than unobjectionable advertisements taken.

All communications for either Business or Editorial Departments should be addressed PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2404, Toronto, Ont.

The entire book business of The Presbyterian News Company has been transferred to the Toronto Willard Tract Depository, (Fleming H. Revell Company, Proprietors), corner Yonge and Temperance Streets, Toronto, Canada, to whom should be sent all orders for Books, Bibles, Sabbath School Libraries and Requisites, and general Miscellaneous and Theological Literature, Minute Books, Communion Registers, Communion Cards and general Session Supplies.

"I am in the place where I am demanded of Conscience to speak the truth, and therefore the truth I speak, impugn it who so list."—JOHN KNOX.

Toronto, October 19, 1893.

A Privilege and a Duty.

IT is but reasonable that the Church should feel the effects of the general depression of business which prevails over the Dominion. Industry is retarded, means of living reduced, and the Church, in common with other interests and institutions, suffers. Provided the situation is viewed in the proper light no cause of complaint will be to those who place the work of the Church foremost in their thoughts. But if the pruning knife of economy is applied first and heaviest on the Schemes of the Church, there would be just ground of protest. Times are hard, and every extravagance must be lopped off; careful living and plucky effort are required to pull business through, yet no obligation is more binding on a man than that placed upon him by his duty to God. The Church is retrenching in every department. Accounts are keenly scrutinized, estimates closely pared down, only the most pressing needs are attended to, so that it may be possible to make the demands on the people as light as possible. This ought to be appreciated by those concerned, as it doubtless is, and the hands of the various committees should be strengthened by a supreme effort to raise the necessary funds for the Church. The depression of trade, it is generally believed, will be of short duration, and the additional self-sacrifice fully paid up subscriptions would entail, would not be for long. To be short of funds, if for one year only, would tell heavily on the Church. The effect would be felt for years, while, on the other hand, the inconvenience of parting with the usual amount for the cause of God would be but very temporary. The sacrifice that would be involved would be a blessed one, for the faith is weak indeed that cannot see the gracious effect of cheerful giving. It is unnecessary to say that no better investment can be made than that made for the cause of Christ and His Church. Humanly speaking, the spiritual value of a gift is in proportion to the hardship involved in the giving of it. That is the moral of the story of the widow's mite. The Church has a most favourable opportunity of showing the stuff she is made of. To hold her own against the ebbing tide would prove to the world the strength of her life. That her needs are urgent one has only to think of her work in the Home and Foreign Mission fields, her obligations to her widows and orphans, to her aged and infirm ministers—honoured labourers in the vineyard, whose years lie heavy on them—her colleges, her work among the French, and her many other undertakings. That the spirit of liberality, a deep

sense of duty and a desire to give to the Lord may prevail so as to produce the requisite means will be the prayer of the Church at the present time.

The Higher Criticism.

IT is supposed the Briggs case will have passed through an interesting stage of its course this week before the Synod of New York, which is meeting at Rochester. On the result there, it is expected, the future of the question, so far as Dr. Briggs is concerned, will largely depend. If he carries, new life will be given to his hopes; if defeated, his case will appear hopeless. The matter is thus argued because Dr. Briggs claims his chief support in the New York bounds. The debate ought to be pretty evenly balanced, the New York Presbytery having secured a strong delegation of brethren known to be opposed to the views of Dr. Briggs. While the Church courts are thus dealing with the case in a formal manner, able writers are busy in the religious periodicals defending and attacking the position on all sides. The questions raised by Dr. Briggs in his books and utterances are fertile of hostile criticism. In the Reformed and Presbyterian Review, Dr. Green, of Princeton, attacks the "Higher Criticism of the Hexateuch," by Dr. Briggs, with singular skill and vigor. The article is worth reading by those who have read the book. Its tone and manner will be seen from this short extract: "It is a serious mistake to reject a valuable instrument because it has been misapplied. The Higher Criticism is simply a scientific method of inquiring into and ascertaining the facts respecting the books of the Bible. If proper methods are pursued great results will be reached. The true way to deal with a 'radical and revolutionary theory' like the development hypothesis is, as Dr. Briggs well says (p. 98), 'to look the facts in the face, and inquire whether the theory of the school of Reuss accounts for them in whole, or in part, or at all.' No one who has a sincere faith in the Bible will hesitate to say amen to those noble words. The cause of the Bible can not be damaged by the frank acceptance of the truth in criticism, or in any other branch of scientific inquiry. It may be and it has been discredited in the estimate of intelligent and thoughtful men to their own unspeakable injury by the blind and obstinate hostility of professed advocates of religion to clearly established truths, as though they were antagonistic to the Bible. Beyond question Dr. Briggs is honestly aiming to defend the revealed Word of God and evangelical religion against the hostile attacks of a destructive and revolutionary criticism. Convinced that the critics have established much that is at variance with what has been currently believed hitherto respecting the origin and structure of the books of the Bible, he is persuaded that the only honest and safe course is frankly to accept these conclusions and adjust the belief of the Church accordingly. He confidently maintains that nothing which is essential to the Christian faith will be lost by so doing; while, if this is not done, the Bible will be put in apparent opposition to the sure results of modern scholarship, to the serious disadvantage of the Christian faith, a disadvantage to which it cannot rightfully be subjected. This is an intelligible position. It is conscientiously taken, and it is entitled to respectful consideration. If it can be shown that critical conclusions do not affect the Christian faith, that the latter will remain intact whatever be the results at which the Higher Criticism may arrive, that the great verities of our religion are quite independent of all questions of the date and authorship and literary character of the books of the Bible, a decisive point