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Miscellaneous Articles.

THE MAGAZINE.

When announcing the retirement of the late Editor in our June number, it was mentioned that some were of opinion that two periodicals ought to be maintained in the Church. Since then we have been requested to continue the publication of the Magazine, and not allow its career to close with the present year. It is true the Synod has given its sanction to another periodical as the organ of the Church, but this Magazine, while endeavouring to promote the interests of the U. P. Church, never was, and never aspired to be the official organ of that Church.

The recognition of any Magazine as the official mouth-piece of a public body, is often of advantage in enabling it to supply accurate information gleaned from sources not open to an independent journal, and also in a pecuniary point of view; but such a recognition has also its disadvantages. The support of the powers that be is apt to fetter, and to prevent freedom of discussion. The editor may have very strong private opinions on many questions, but he has always to bear in mind that it is his duty to give utterance, not to the views of one man, but of the whole body on behalf of which he speaks. He dare not, on many occasions, express his real sentiments, and must remain silent. In this way many important questions are apt to be either ignored altogether, or spoken of in a hesitating manner. It is chiefly in this view of the case, that we are inclined to entertain with favor the request to continue our labors. There are many questions of vital importance to the cause of truth and righteousness, upon which open and plain speaking is necessary, but to the discussion of which the pages of an official organ are not likely to be open. Some of these questions are already occupying public attention, and several