

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

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THE conductors of *The Presbyterian* are anxious to improve the periodical as much as possible for the benefit of the subscribers. As it is, the endeavour is to make the outside of it as respectable and the contents as interesting and useful, as their means will allow. Much satisfaction has been caused by the favourable opinion expressed by a number of readers, respecting recent changes. It is not for us to write one word of self-praise, but we value the commendation of those whom we strive to serve, and comfort and encourage ourselves with the inferences we make in regard to our efforts. In the order of things which give pleasure, the approbation of our fellow-men comes next to the conscientious discharge of duty. Planning how to enlarge the latter that we may have more of the former, it has occurred to us that our object would be gained, for the present, if we could throw the four pages now forming the cover into the body of the paper, so as to increase the amount of reading matter, and procure a new and suitable cover of coloured paper. This means a very considerable addition to the present expense of publication, but not, as we intend it, to the present subscription. The project must be given up, if we cannot reckon upon an extension of the subscription list. To this we ask our friends to help us. Should they do so, they will have the satisfaction of adding to the number of our readers, and of putting us in possession of means for the improvement of the paper. They may also rest assured that we will go forward with our improvements to the very utmost of our ability, whether of the nature above suggested or not. We intend to send out some specimen copies with subscription papers enclosed, and also a circular explaining our position, and soliciting assistance for the enlargement of our subscription list. After a few weeks we will see to what extent we may be justified in assuming additional expense, and arrange accordingly.

IT is not too soon to call the attention of congregations to the new regulation affecting the distribution of the benefits of the Temporalities Fund. It is to be presumed that the Board of Management at their next meeting, which, according to By-Law, takes place on the 12th inst., will adopt the recommendation of the Synod, to the effect that the payment of fifty dollars per annum, into the Fund, be the condition on which the allowance of two hundred dollars be received from it. The latter sum is the amount hitherto annually given for the support of ordinances, in each congregation not served by one of the ministers, whose right of participation was secured by the commutation arrangements. The number of such congregations at last meeting of Synod was 49, and three have been added since. The reason why a larger allowance is not distributed to these, is the very decisive one, that the Fund will not admit of it. The money available for distribution, that is, the interest on the invested capital, being already exhausted, either some of the congregations most recently added to this class must be excluded from participation, or the allowance over the whole must be diminished. Fewer than 49 must share in the distribution, or less than \$200 must be given to each. The feeling of the Synod, as expressed by a resolution passed in 1856, is against the distribution of a smaller allowance. The only other way of providing for an equal participation, at the rate of \$200 by all the congregations, is to secure an increase of the amount available for distribution, in other words, to improve the revenue of the Board. To accomplish this, in a simple and efficient manner, is the object of the Synod's recommendation.

It proposes a fixed sum, which has an obvious advantage over a voluntary contribution, as that is always variable both as to the amount and time of transmission. A fixed sum will give a reliable return,