

## Editorial Notes.

OUR CHRISTIAN MONTHLY.—One can easily understand that it must have been with hesitation and misgivings the editor of the CHRISTIAN MONTHLY entered on his duties. It was not simply that a beginning was made at a time when money is scarce and people busy, from early to late, in their fields, but a beginning was made in the face of the discredit and distrust that came from the failure and the stoppage of *Good News*, and its associate papers. It could only be a desire to discharge a duty that could supply adequate motive to such a work in these circumstances. It has happened, however, as often happens to us in such circumstances, fears have been to a large degree falsified, and hopes more than fulfilled. Some friends there are, it is true, who have not yet shown any practical interest in our work, but it must be remembered that it is, at this writing, only a short month since our first number made its appearance, and that in the multitude of business, things less urgent must stand adjourned. There are others again, and hearty thanks are due to them, who have grudged no pains to help on the work. From quarters very far removed, names come dropping in day by day. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba, United States, are on our list, but it is from Ontario our chief support comes, in which Province the counties of Simcoe, Grey, and Bruce, deserve particular mention. To one P. O. in Grey, 43 copies are sent, and 39 to another in Bruce: but in the Province of Quebec there is a county where the Protestant families are so few, that it can almost be said that the CHRISTIAN MONTHLY is taken by all of them.

Though, thus far, our success is beyond what circumstances would have led us to expect, it, however, goes no further, such are the expenses of publishing, than to enable us to say, that for this year, with God's blessing on

the future as on the past, our undertaking is on safe ground, and that it will bring loss to no one connected with it. This is much indeed to say, all things considered.

For the kind words of approval and encouragement that have reached us, we owe grateful thanks. Not one letter complains of loss sustained by the untimely stoppage of *Good News*, save the loss of its instruction and comfort; and pleasant it is to find that in every quarter, as far as known to us, the CHRISTIAN MONTHLY is welcomed as a fitting successor. Friends will be glad to know that through the kindness of a gentleman, whose name must not be given, copies of the CHRISTIAN MONTHLY are being sent to some of the charitable and Christian institutions of Ontario.

PERNICIOUS LITERATURE.—One of the agencies for distributing pernicious literature over the land is the railway car. Our readers are familiar, at least, with the exterior of the publications that are persistently thrust on the passengers. These are not only offered for sale in the usual way, but they are lent out, as it were, to read for a little while, in the hope that the illustrations and stories may catch the eye, and thereby lead to a sale. Has the fact been noted that if a clergyman happens to be in the car, he is generally passed by, and no chance given him to purchase or to read? It would be indeed a noble undertaking to get possession of the railway car as a means of colportage, to spread abroad among people who never enter a bookstore, sound Christian literature. At the Convention of the Young Men's Christian Association, the question was discussed, "What can the Association do to destroy the influence of pernicious literature?" The first speaker was Rev. Lyman Abbott, editor of the *Illustrated Christian Weekly*. He said almost all that has been done during the past year has been done by the Young Men's Chris.