

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

OCTOBER, 1864.

NOW that the year is drawing to a close we do not think it out of place to say something of ourselves, our past, our present, and our future. *The Presbyterian* was established in 1847, seventeen years ago. Its success, in a pecuniary point of view, was not encouraging, nor was there that interest shewn in its prosperity which might have been expected. There were a few who sent information, contributed articles, and, in various ways, tried to help the undertaking, but only a few. It was a forced plant, and for many years existed by means of assistance from friends of the Church in Montreal. Yet its objects might have warranted a belief that such a publication would succeed. Every minister and the various sessions might have been expected to act as agents to promote the circulation of the only publication in Canada which would give *any information whatever* regarding the transactions of our Church. Besides, the subscriptions were not well paid, a large list of arrears was on the books, and the Committee were heavily in debt to the publisher. A determined system of *dunning* was therefore begun and successfully carried on. Nearly three years ago a change was made in the general arrangement of the work, its contents were more varied in their character than they had formerly been, its size was largely increased, shape altered, and price doubled. These alterations, together with the systematic collection of the subscriptions, have been so far successful that all debts have been paid off and a balance remained to be applied to aid schemes connected with our Church. From this source accordingly, the Lay Association had last year the pleasure of handing over to

The French Mission.....	\$400 00
Point St. Charles Mission.....	400 00
Bursary Scheme, Queen's College.	100 00

Being a total of.....\$900 00

It will thus be seen that not only does

every subscriber receive full value for this money, not only is an opportunity afforded to the different members of our Church for communicating with each other, not only have we a means of diffusing information through all our congregations of the working of the various schemes, and missionary operations of our own and other Churches, at home and abroad, but this has been done to the direct pecuniary benefit of the schemes from the publication itself. This result has, in some measure, been brought about by the efforts of those who have obtained the names of subscribers, and assisted in various ways. To them the thanks of the Church are justly due, and the Committee would gratefully acknowledge how much they have done to lighten their labours.

Having, then, overcome the difficulties of the past, we feel encouraged by our present position to look forward with confidence to the future. We have, it is true, a large list of subscribers, but, we venture to say, a very little exertion on the part of one or two in each congregation, would increase the circulation fourfold. We are anxious, if it is in our power, to add to the usefulness of *The Presbyterian*,—to make it, from month to month, a welcome visitor to every Presbyterian's house in Canada: we will endeavour, while maintaining our own distinctive principles, to do so without bitterness, and in a broad and liberal spirit to record what other denominations of Christians are doing in Christ's cause,—to call attention to subjects which, though not perhaps immediately bearing on Church work, have yet a direct influence upon the well being of the community: we wish, in short, to make it a family magazine, one to be looked for by young and old, one that may be read with peculiar interest by the Presbyterian, with pleasure by every Christian. To do this as it ought to be done, we must have the co-operation of our friends, not merely in getting subscription-