

## EDITORIAL.

To the members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, throughout the wide Dominion, as well as to others in distant lands to whom these presents shall come, we make our best bow, and beg leave to introduce ourselves with the homely salutation of "A HAPPY NEW YEAR!" We hope that the relationships on which the PRESBYTERIAN RECORD is about to enter, may prove agreeable and profitable to its readers: that the acquaintanceship now begun may ripen into closer friendship and confidence. and that, in some small degree at least, this magazine may be instrumental in promoting the interests of the church and the cause of the Redeemer in our land.

Only, let not the enthusiasm of kind friends and supporters lead them to expect too much at our hands, and we will do the best we can to make THE RECORD such a medium of communication as the church desires it should be. But the Editor lays claim to no peculiar fitness for the office with which he has been invested. Indeed, he shrinks from so great a responsibility. And, let it be remembered, that as a literary journal, THE RECORD must of necessity occupy a subordinate position. It cannot take the place of the daily and weekly "newspaper" but must rather look to them itself as valuable sources of information; and it must yield the right of way to more ambitious monthlies and quarterlies.

But, in its humble sphere, it will try to realize that it *has* a mission, and an important work to do.

The memorial record of the past year reminds us that

"Time like an ever-rolling stream  
Bears all its sons away,"

and admonishes ministers and people alike to work while it is called day. Presbyterianism has lost many staunch friends, and the Church of God, some of its most useful ministers, during the year that is now numbered with the past. Such were Dr. Robert Buchanan and William Arnot, of the Free Church; Dr. Maxwell Nicholson and Professor Crawford, of the Established Church of Scotland; Charles Kingsley, eminent in English Literature, and Tichendorf, the learned Theologian of Leipsic.

A great company, too, of earnest workers, unknown to fame, have crossed the bourne. Let us who remain and who shall be privileged to enter upon the year 1876, resolve to be more zealous and faithful than ever before, so that, when the Master cometh, whether "at even, or at midnight, or in the morning," we may be found waiting and watching—"lest coming suddenly he find us sleeping."

There is much in the review of the past year to call forth thankfulness. It was a time of unusual public tranquillity. The word of the Lord had free course in many lands, and was glorified in the conversion of sinners, and christian people in our own, and other countries, were brought under the influences of religious