

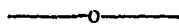
ignorant of the principles and doings of his own church, while he professes uncommon confidence in, and adherence to her, is untrue not only to his own communion, but also to the "communion of the Saints."

The efforts put forth by other religious bodies, who are pursuing the same objects with ourselves, will also form part of the information furnished in the "Monthly Record." These are, as many know, large and comprehensive; and by the blessing of the "one spirit" that is animating us all, have been prospered to the conversion of the heathen, and the spread of vital godliness. Viewing the present state of the world, it would be sad indeed, if the sole distinction of being a true Church, belonged to any one religious body, whether Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Baptist or Methodist. If the enterprises of any one of these bodies were alone registered in heaven, Presbyterian, or indeed, the religion of the cross, might truly abide its head in shame. From such bigotry the step were easy into the bosom of the Romish Church, which might thus claim to be the Catholic or universal church on earth, as alone able to shew a success in the world in some degree commensurate with the grandeur of such a preparation as the sacrifice of the Son of God. By alluding to the doings of other Churches, of the Church universal, we shall be encouraged to go and do likewise, and with more zeal to put in the sickle and reap those fields of the world, which are white unto the harvest.

It is our intention to lay before our readers matters of general interest and to furnish a summary of the news of the month. We believe that the man who remains deaf to the clamour of social progress, dead to the stirring events of divine Providence, in which the feelings of men are moved to their "heart of hearts," and which bring grief or joy to thousands of our fellow-men, or cold to the weal or woe of his native land, will not be a man "thoroughly furnished unto all good works." We need only add, that, as heretofore, the religious instruction of all, and of the young in particular, will receive special attention.

As the *Record* is now published at the same price, and yet, for the convenience of its readers, in a more expensive form; and in view of the circumstances already mentioned, which have brought it under their charge, the Committee of Synod think that they are entitled to the sympathy and support of the members

of our Church in this matter. The *Record* ought to be self-sustaining and without thought not to be continued. We think, that ought to receive special support from our vacant congregations in their circumstances of painful destitution of regular ordinances. While the active co-operation of the ministers of our church is looked for, the assistance of all her members is necessary to our success. As the greatest care is to be taken that the Magazine be published and posted punctually upon the first Thursday of each month, it is hoped that in these respects none will be disappointed. If our faithful people will thus co-operate with us in this good work, we are bold enough to predict, that the *Record* will like to chronicle the breaking forth of a brighter day upon our church, and the swelling of her ranks with pious, consistent members, and an efficient staff of able preachers of the everlasting gospel.



Peculiarities of the Christian Religion

We have great pleasure in publishing the following valuable article, being the first of a series which has kindly been promised by an esteemed correspondent in Newfoundland.

Under this head, it is our intention, from time to time, to present our readers with a short essay upon one or more of those peculiarities which distinguish the Christian religion from all other systems, which have appealed to man's disposition to worship, in various ages and countries. For, that it does possess features characteristic only of itself, will be obvious upon the slightest consideration of its nature and history. Our purpose is to dwell upon points which do not generally form the subject of pulpit ministrations, for the obvious reason that they are truths *about*, and not *of* revelation. The object of the pulpit is specially to show the value of the pearl of truth; our object is rather to describe the pearl and its setting.

I. And first, the Christian is a *book religion*. Some of our readers may be startled at hearing this pronounced a peculiarity. Nevertheless, that it is so, will be perfectly obvious on a moment's reflection. Before the white man discovered and took possession of America, it was inhabited by races who had their religious customs, their rites and ceremonies, their idols and temples. But where are their religious books?—the books of the Indian tribes in existence or extinct? They had none. Their religion depended for its continuance merely upon that tendency to worship so eminently distinguishing man from the lower animals, and for its forms, upon the traditions of their forefathers.