

THE
Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

DECEMBER, 1865.

TO OUR READERS.

The present number of the *Record* closes another volume, the fifth under the present management. We have succeeded to a very encouraging extent in realizing the reasonable expectations of the Church.

Editorial pains have not been spared to make the *Record* what it should be; and we venture to say that not one in a hundred of our readers have any adequate idea of the labour expended on one volume. Our best reward is the consciousness of promoting the glory of the Redeemer in connection with our beloved Presbyterian Church. The *Record* has paid its way and has aided in wiping out old debts that were a drag upon the Synod. But if it is to continue to be successful and increasingly useful *you*—every one of our readers—must aid us in getting new subscribers, and *you*—every one of our subscribers—must not only pay what you owe on the present year, but pay in advance for 1866. It is only *fifty cents*; and we certainly do not know of any other way in which you can invest the money more profitably.

Ministers, and Clerks of Presbyteries especially, would add to the value of the *Record* by promptly forwarding us all items of ecclesiastical intelligence which come under their observation. With regard to clerks of Presbyteries indeed we seldom have reason to complain. The gentlemen who discharge the onerous duties of the clerkship are generally prompt in sending notices of Presbytery proceedings. But Home Mission intelligence,

movements and incidents of great interest, often slumber quietly in distant corners of the church—incidents and intelligence which if published might cheer the hearts and strengthen the faith of thousands.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION.

In the last number of the *Record* we called attention very briefly to the claims of Roman Catholics on the evangelistic efforts of our church. Let us resume the subject.

The Roman Catholic population of these Provinces, within the bounds of our Synod, is larger by far than the Presbyterian population. We need not enter very minutely into Statistics; but a few figures may impress a valuable lesson on our minds. Taking Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P. E. Island and Newfoundland we can count a little over 150,000 Presbyterians. These unfortunately are not all under the same banner. The Roman Catholics in the same region border on 280,000. We do not by any means assert that the claims of the Roman Catholics are on a level with those of the heathen. The former are within reach of some portions of the truth, and not a few of them find Christ in spite of the idolatry and the false teaching of the church. They have at least a faint glimmering of true light, which, if they industriously use may lead to the perfect knowledge of saving truth. The heathen are in utter darkness, wholly helpless and hopeless, and hence they rightly appeal most powerfully to our sympathies.

But, doing what we can for the heathen,