

MINISTERS

Can do a great deal to promote our circulation; but we do not desire to lay any fresh burden upon them. Could they not set some of their active young men or young women, or two or three of their Elders to the work of canvassing for the *Record*?

SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Should also assist, as the claims of the Sabbath School work are fully recognized in the *Record* and met as far as our space will permit. The Lessons for the coming year are to be prepared with more than usual care; and experienced Teachers promise to furnish us with valuable hints from time to time.

Our FOREIGN MISSION work is enlarging, and the interest of the church must keep pace with it. The work of the Lord at home and abroad is full of interest. All should know something about it. To be ignorant of the progress of the Redeemer's Kingdom is to suffer incalculable loss. The *Record* is intended to furnish cheaply to the members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces such ecclesiastical and religious information as should command their deepest interest. To advance its circulation is to benefit individual members and to strengthen the Church as a whole.

 OUR FOREIGN MISSION.

"The missionary work of the church, for conventional reasons, is divided into Home and Foreign. The taking care of our own land is a duty, as upon its moral and religious character, depends the spiritual welfare of other countries. The relation of these two causes, the home and foreign, is very close and intimate, as they act and react upon each other. How prominent each as a work should be, and how much of the church's strength should be given to each, it is difficult to say; but one thing is true, the foreign does not occupy that place in the affections, liberality, and plans of the church, to which its vastness and its importance entitle it. Its reflex influence upon the church is great, its power over the

heart and life of those interested in it is marked, while the commands to come into vital sympathy with it are many and varied. The leading idea of the aggressive or evangelistic character of the church is foreign rather than home missions. It is a going out—a going forth into regions beyond, that is to mark her life. The position of the christian and the church, the character and the burden of prayer, apostolic precept and example, take in the whole earth for Jesus; and as the conquest of the world was committed by him to his own, nothing less than this should form the burden of effort. But instead of the ringing cry 'ulterius,' 'ulterius'—further, further! which formed the motto of the Roman conqueror, and is the blood bought motto of the church, we find a disposition in many hearts to confine this cry to the bounds of our own land, while there are some within her pale who boldly declare, 'we do not believe in foreign missions.' The tendency to push this cause more and more into a corner is obvious though not so designed by the *steady legislation or action of the church.*"

Thus writes a careful observer of the religious movements of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, in the Foreign Missionary periodical of that body for August, and he sustains his statements by such facts as the following: That whereas half a century ago, there were three church schemes, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, and Education, now there are six or seven for home work, and only one for the whole work abroad, when that work has been vastly enlarged; that while formerly a monthly concert for prayer for the conversion for the heathen was general, now it has been abandoned in many cases, but more generally, home calls have usurped the place and time that were dedicated to pleading for the world's evangelization; and finally that in the week of prayer, now observed in response to the call of missionaries in India to the christian church to devote the first of the year to earnest prayer for the Holy Spirit to awaken the church to its great work, and for the progress of that work, and which was so promptly and