

# The Presbyterian Record.

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Unfortunately, as a rule, the RECORD does not reach the homes where it is most needed. If fifty families in a congregation take it, and fifty do not, those who do, are sure to be the interested, active ones, who do nearly all the congregational working and giving. The other fifty have, as a rule, very little interest in any church work, and need most, any stimulus or help that the RECORD may be able to give.

A second proposition may be laid down, viz: that one part of the Christian work of the first fifty, a most important part, is to try and create a deeper interest in the other fifty. It is their special mission, given to themselves only, just as much as their general mission, together with others, as to send the gospel to our home or foreign fields.

A third proposition, is, we think, equally true, that no agency will yield so large a return for the time and expense involved, as the sending of the RECORD into these families. Often they have very little reading, and the RECORD lying about, ready to be picked up in the hours of idleness, when perhaps they will not go to church, will quietly give its message and do its work.

A fourth proposition, which we think as true as any of the others, is, that there is no work, which, for its outlay, will directly benefit, to so great an extent, the congregation itself. Were every congregation to see to it that the RECORD was placed in every home, the increased interest and liberality on the part of the more careless of its people, toward its own work, would richly repay the expenditure. A congregation that wishes to bring out more fully to its aid its own careless members and adherents, would find it a profitable investment to put the RECORD in every home.

In some places the best way of doing this is to get each one to subscribe for it. In others, or where the personal canvas fails, it is best to vote a small sum from the congregational funds. The money thus expended is not money spent in what may seem merely mission work. It does that work, but in most cases, it brings directly

into the funds of the congregation more than it takes out.

To any ministers, sessions or others, who may be willing to undertake this good work, any number of sample copies they may wish will be sent free of charge.

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With regard to the RECORD itself, we have to say, (1) that, owing to a variety of causes, the last three issues have been unavoidably a few days late, but it is expected that henceforth it will be on time. (2) "The Family Circle" though crowded into very small compass in this issue, is intended to contain, each month, five or six pages. (3) Another department which we hope to add to the RECORD, after "Our Foreign Missions," is "Other Churches and their Work," a brief review of the religious life that lies outside ourselves.

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We would like a word quietly with our Home Missionaries. On another page, the Foreign Missionaries are reminded to how great an extent their department depends upon them. Not in such large measure, it may be, and yet in some measure, the interest of "Our Home Work" depends upon our Home Missionaries. The Home Field needs to be kept before the Church as much as does the Foreign; perhaps more so, inasmuch as people are liable to look past the work at their doors to the enchantment of the more distant. We know that many of our Home Missionaries never think of thrusting their work into print, many of them, if they did think of it, would shrink from it. It is to help such that this public request is made, so that they may feel, in responding to it, that they are but doing a favor for which they have been asked. Do not send sermons, lectures, homilies. Tell where your mission is, whether by the Pacific or Atlantic seas, on the Prairie sea that lies between, or to the lonely dweller by mountain, lake or wood; tell about the people, their condition, socially and religiously, what they are doing and what they need, help the church to see through your eyes and hear through your ears, the wants of our own land.