

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

NOVEMBER, 1866.



LETTER from the Con-
vener of the Sabbath
School Committee will be
found in this number, which
is deserving of serious con-
sideration. The efforts made
by the Sabbath scholars to
extend to India the bless-
ings of the Gospel are worthy
of all praise. It is matter
of congratulation that by means of the In-
dian Orphanage so many children have been
supported—have received a good education
to prepare them for their duties in this life,
and, higher and more important considera-
tion, have been trained to a knowledge of
the great truths by which alone men can
be saved. The importance of this work
can scarcely be over-rated. These young
people, thus trained and indoctrinated from
their infancy with Christian principles, can
go amongst their own countrymen with the
advantage of speaking their language, and
being able to withstand the effects of a
climate, which too often tells with deadly
effect upon European Missionaries. It is
true, the iron barrier of *caste* rises up to
interpose obstacles unknown in other coun-
tries, but even that is at last yielding be-
fore the advance of new ideas, and the
changes begun by the stopping of the *suttees*
or burning of widows on their husbands'
funeral pile, and by the breaking up of the
frightful association of Thugs, a band of
armed murderers, who put men to death as
an act of devotion to the blood thirsty god-
dess, in whose existence they believed, and
whom they served, will not stop until the
Gospel has free course. This we believe;
and would not, therefore, willingly see one
farthing less contributed to the support of
every measure by which the Word of God
and the influence of Christianity can be
extended to India, or to any quarter of the
globe. On the contrary, we would gladly
see, not only the amount from the children

increased ten-fold, and the hearty co-oper-
ation of *all* the scholars would do this with-
out much strain upon their resources, but
we would also desire to see a living and
active interest manifested in the Church at
large in Missionary work. Yet, important
as are the claims of foreign missions, there
are fields nearer home which cannot be
neglected without entailing upon the Church
a heavy responsibility. There are wants
to be supplied among our own countrymen,
not alone among the backwoods where the
settlers are few in number and poor in
resources. Their necessities cannot be
overlooked without casting upon us the
shame and reproach of sitting idly down,
folding our hands, and asking practically,
if not in words, "Am I my brother's
keeper." There are also old settlements,
where competence, if not wealth, has been
gained, but where the long-continued want
of Bible teaching and stated ordinances of
worship has taken away all desire for them—
where long deprivation of the bread of life
has taken away the sense of hunger for it—
as we are told sometimes happens in the
physical man, whose sense of pain from
want of food becomes dulled the longer he
continues without it. Then there is the
French Canadian Mission, miserably sup-
ported, and languishing in a state which is
a disgrace to us as a Church of Christ.
There are other claims to which we need
not now more particularly refer. The
letter of Mr. Inglis speaks for itself, and
will doubtless be carefully read and pon-
dered. The object he proposes is one
which commends itself to the warm sym-
pathies of all who know the state of the
country, and the poverty prevailing in many
localities, where the strongest desire is felt
for the establishment of religious services.
No place, however poor, would require, as
Mr. Inglis would lead us to infer, to have
the whole cost of the building of a Church
defrayed. In the districts most urgently
requiring help, timber is abundant—the