

# The Presbyterian Record.

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The RECORD for 1893 is now completed. It cannot be amended. Our life record for the year, so far as it goes, is also complete. It cannot be changed. Written, not with printers' ink on perishable paper, but in our own characters, in the characters of those whom we have influenced, in the book of God's remembrance, those life records remain, unchanged, unchangeable, forever.

Suffer a word at this season as to the purpose and aim of the RECORD. It is the property of the whole church and not of any individual or committee. It was started by the church to aid her in her work. In doing anything for the RECORD, in the way of increasing its distribution, churches are working for themselves, and, through themselves, for the church at large. In this connection let congregations remember one class of helpers to whom they owe a debt of gratitude, viz., those who take the charge of collecting for it and attending to its distribution. Let that debt be paid by prompt subscription, and payment in advance for the coming year, thus making work as light as possible.

To our fellow helpers throughout the church, we take this opportunity of returning hearty thanks for their faithfulness in work and their courtesy in intercourse.

**The "Record"** Where no notice is received to for 1894. the contrary it is assumed that subscribers wish the RECORD continued for the coming year. Will any who do not wish it, please give notice at once. It is not right that parcels should be allowed to go for six months or even one month, and then notice be sent that they are not wanted. Where the RECORDS are taken by individual subscribers, please hand the subscription for the coming year as soon as possible to the agent who kindly does the work of distributing them, so as to make his voluntary service as light and pleasant as may be.

During the past year the RECORD has reached a point towards which for years it has been steadily progressing, a monthly issue of 50,000 copies. But it should be in every family in our church, and the Blue Book reports the number of these families as 93,487, besides 16,636 single persons, making it plain that there is much room for increase. Sample parcels of any size will be sent free to all who wish them.

## THE "WHY" AND THE "HOW."

*I. Why the RECORD should be in every Presbyterian family in the Dominion.*

1. It is, with the exception of *The Children's Record*, the only periodical published by our church. It is for the whole church, and whatever other papers they may take, every family, as a part of that church, should receive it and have a share in whatever good it can give.

2. In many families there is very little religious reading; the RECORD devotes part of its space to meeting this want, by giving a few pages of the best select reading it can get, bearing upon the main doctrines and principles and duties of the gospel, and must in this way be an agency for good wherever it goes.

3. It keeps the Home and Foreign work of our church as fully as possible before its readers, and thus aids in sustaining and deepening an interest in that work.

The result of all such added interest, must be gain, in every way; to the individual, to the congregation, and to the church at large.

*II. The best way of placing the RECORD in every family.*

There are but two ways, either by each family subscribing for it, or by the congregation taking a sufficient number to give one to each family.

1. The subscription plan.

The disadvantages of this method are, first, that it involves an amount of work each year in getting subscribers and collecting "quarters" which few are willing to undertake, and, secondly, seldom more than half the congregation take it, often not one fourth, while those who do not subscribe, need it most.

2. The congregation taking it for each family.

In doing so, it can be paid either out of the ordinary church funds, or by taking a collection at the beginning of the year, and adding to it, if need be, from the church funds.

The advantages of this plan are, first, that it saves all the work of getting subscribers from year to year, and the collection of 25 cent subscriptions, which is a long and weary task.

Secondly, it costs no more to those who now subscribe. They save their subscription and pay