

THE MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE

Church of Scotland

IN

NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK & ADJOINING PROVINCES.

VOL. XIX.

DECEMBER, 1873.

No. 12.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CUNNING."—PS. 137: 5

SPECIAL NOTICE TO AGENTS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

As a sufficient number of answers had not been returned to the annual Circular, up to the date named for their reception, to warrant the adoption of the plan proposed in the October number, for the increased circulation of the RECORD, Notice is hereby given that

The Old Terms will be adhered to for the ensuing year. It is earnestly requested that orders be forwarded previous to 1st January, to prevent disappointment, and that remittances of all outstanding accounts accompany the same. Those Agents who have sent orders in accordance with the proposed arrangement, will please notify us if their orders will now require amendment.

W. G. PENDER, *Sec'y.*

18 Blowers St., Halifax, Dec. 4, 1873.

A NATIONAL CHURCH.

What is meant by a national Church? One that represents and expresses the religious thought and life of the nation,

one that is the Church of the people generally, and that ramifies to every nook and corner of the land till "there is nothing hid from the heat thereof." It is based on the truth that man is a religious being, not as an accident but universally, and therefore that the nation, being composed of individuals, has a religious character and responsibility. Its ideal is that the nation, as such, should express in worship its collective life, and that the national acts should accord with the spirit of Christianity. Whether or not the State should "establish" and "endow" the Church or not is entirely a question of expediency. That would indeed be inexpedient now in Canada or the United States. It may be highly fitting a century hence, just as it was highly fitting in Great Britain and on the Continent three centuries ago. A necessary condition for such establishment and endowment is that the Church within the bounds of a particular nation should accomplish its own unity and be parallel and commensurate with the national life. Even then it might be inexpedient, unless the circumstances were somewhat similar to those that existed in