

## NOTICES.

## THE ECCLESIASTICAL &amp; MISSIONARY RECORD.

TO THE OFFICE-BEARERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

The publisher of the Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record would respectfully bring under your notice the state of that periodical. It has now attained its fourth year, and has been known as the acknowledged organ of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. It has never been so upheld as to make it profitable in a pecuniary point of view,—quite the reverse. At the commencement of the present volume its size was doubled; and, with the view of keeping on a par with the cheap secular reading of the day, an addition of only 40 per cent. was made to the price. Each of the three first volumes contained 96 pages, at 2s. 6d. per volume. The present volume will contain 192 pages, at 4s., if paid during the first quarter.

When the style and price are considered, it must be obvious that it can only be sustained by an extensive circulation and prompt returns. This we cannot obtain by paid agencies. The case will not admit of it. We rely upon the gratuitous exertions of the friends of the truth; especially, we look to members of our own Church.

While the land is deluged with cheap reading, of the most mischievous tendency,—while the great enemy through that instrumentality is poisoning the minds of the young, and spreading a moral blight over the face of society,—surely it becomes all to whom the truth is dear—all who pray for the prosperity of the Church, to lend a helping hand to any enterprise calculated to counteract such pernicious influences, or to diffuse religious truth.

The practicability of sustaining the Record has already been demonstrated, by the success that has attended the efforts of some of our agents in not a few of the less favoured localities. That success shows what might be done throughout the Church, were the cause of the Record taken up in a spirit at all suited to its importance.

The publisher earnestly requests all our ministers, missionaries, and catechists to see that at least one agent is appointed in every congregation and mission station, and also take occasion to bring the paper under the notice of the people; and it is to be hoped that agents will lose no time in sending in the names of subscribers, naming particularly the Post-office to which their Records are to be addressed.

There are over 50 settled charges in the Church. An average of 40 subscribers each would require an edition of 2000 copies; and surely it would not be too much to expect that another thousand might be obtained in vacant congregations, mission stations, and elsewhere. There are congregations that could not come up to 40, perhaps scarcely to 20; but there are others that could exceed 100. Some country congregations now take 70 copies, and missionary stations 25.

Every reader of the Record has the power of exerting more or less influence to extend the circulation, and otherwise promote its interests, by recommending it to his neighbours, and pointing out the duty of supporting it as a religious journal.

The publisher returns grateful thanks to agents and others who have taken pains to obtain subscribers and forward remittances, also to those who have kindly returned "refused" Records, and would esteem it a favour, if such as have spare copies of Nos. 1 and 2 would return them without delay, to enable him to supply new subscribers with full sets.

This appeal is made not only because heavy pecuniary responsibility has been incurred, which can only be met by a vigorous effort, but because such a journal as we wish the Record to be, is of great importance to our Church—and, as a silent missionary, should find its way into every family within her pale. The Presbyterian Church of Canada has a high destiny, although this to her is but the day of small things. And it is quite befitting that she lay under contribution the periodical press, as a most potent auxiliary for her efficiency and expan-

sion. If her humble Record be, by the blessing of her Head, instrumental for good to the Church as a whole, or to any of her individual members, its conductors will not have laboured in vain.

JOHN BURNS, *Publisher Record*.  
Streetville, C. W., Jan. 18, 1848.

The Editor acknowledges the receipt of the following exchanges, viz:—The Presbyterian of the West, Cincinnati, O.; Journal & Express, Hamilton, C.W.; Evangelical Pioneer, London, C.W.; Presbyterian Witness, Halifax, N. S.

IT IS ERRATUM in last number of Record. Page 43, column 3rd, line 4th, from foot—for "world" read "Lord."

REMITTANCES received: from York Mills, London, Natuswagan, Streetville, Norval, Stony Creek, Halifax, Beckwith, Toronto Township, Milton, Dundee, C. E., Peterboro' and Alexandria.

## The Record.

### HOW MAY THE CHURCH COURTS PROMOTE THE REVIVAL OF THE CHURCH?

It may be that the Meeting of the Commission of Synod, which is to be held on the 2nd February, will have closed before these lines can be in the hands of the members; but we shall be happy if any of the remarks which we are now to offer approve themselves to our brethren in the Ministry and Eldership, and be allowed in any measure to influence them when they are met in Presbyteries and Sessions.

It will be seen from the printed Minutes of the Synod, that the first article of the deferred business of the Synod which the Commission is called to take up, is "An overture for promoting the Revival of Religion throughout the Church."

We will not now complain that the Synod did not themselves enter on the consideration of this matter, but deferred it to the Commission. This, however, we will say, that it has an importance which no other subject can have, and that it ought to have the very first place in the prayerful deliberations of all our Church Courts. There is such a thing as overgrowth in the young, when they are approaching the adult state; in such a condition, the vital energy of the body has not kept pace with the physical development, and all is feebleness in the frame, and the tenuency is consumption. Now, there may be such a condition in an ecclesiastical body; and were it so that the members of any such body were at all exclusively seeking for its extension in a community, irrespective of inward and spiritual life, we have no doubt that a state of morbid overgrowth would soon be realized.

There is not, perhaps, much danger of this condition in our branch of the Presbyterian Church in this Province. We cannot say that any very great zeal is evinced either for extending the Church, through the raising up of ministers, or the forming a union with another branch of the Presbyterian Church, with whom we have opened negotiations. Our fear is, that in respect to both of these operations we are too lukewarm. Yet a danger, certainly there is, of our being too little concerned for the revival of the Church,—that is for its being animated and actuated throughout by the spirit of its Living Head. Important, we say, is the College; important is a union with other sound

Presbyterians; but important above all these, is the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in and among all our congregations, and all their rulers.

The business that is to occupy the attention of the Commission, suggests this question:—What can our Church Courts do, towards promoting and diffusing a healthy state of religion throughout the Church?

We would offer a few remarks in answer to this question. And, first, we say that the rulers of the Church can meet, for the express purpose of inquiring into the state of religion in the congregations over which they preside.

This is a definite and practicable object, and at the same time a most important one. For the spiritual malady, like the bodily one, must be ascertained before the remedy can be applied; and combined counsel in such an inquiry, is peculiarly important.

It is rare that any one individual can take comprehensive views, when the subject is so complicated as the inquiry into the state of religion in a community. Every individual is forming his observations from some station of his own; and so the result of many observations is more likely to present the actual truth of the case.

Secondly,—The rulers of the Church can meet for prayer, and can mix prayer with their deliberations.

And is not this itself a great object: for ministers and elders to recognise and admit before each other that counsel is vain, and preaching vain, and discipline vain, for building up the Church of the living God, without his own spirit; and then, to cast themselves on the faithfulness and all-sufficiency of a covenant keeping God.

Thirdly,—The rulers of the Church in their conferences on the state of religion among their people, might stimulate and encourage each other in their labours and discouragements, and gladden each other too, when any favourable indications of the Lord's work should be reported.

How solemn it would be for the rulers of the Church, suppose within the bounds of a Presbytery, to meet even once a year in special conference on the Lord's work. Let us suppose that they have met, that the presence and guidance of the Lord has been specially invoked, that some of the promises of the word respecting his presence with his servants in their work has been read, and that each, in turn, on the call of the Moderator, states frankly what his observation has been of the progress of the Lord's work, in connexion with his own instrumentality, during the year that has passed, then, though even one and another, and not a few were heard to complain that they had "laboured in vain," could their complaints be without some gracious results on the assembly in which they were uttered? We trow not. Consolation would be tendered to the dejected—and all would be stirred up to take a firmer grasp of the never-failing promises of Jehovah, and to go forth again to their work with renewed vigour in the hope of those promises.

Fourthly,—The rulers of the Church, when met in the name of their great master, can devise measures for advancing his kingdom as the exigencies of the times require.

Ecclesiastical councils have often been the means of perpetrating and diffusing error—but in many cases, these, like the council at Jerusalem,