

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

22. COPPER AMMINOIN ADVANCE.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1879.

Heartly thanks are hereby tendered to all who have already responded to our request for payment of subscriptions up to 31st Dec. 1879. We trust that many more will remit within the next two weeks. If any subscriber finds it inconvenient to pay up in full, a partial remittance will be taken as evidence of a desire to "do unto others as you would be done by."

PERSONAL

WILL the readers of THE PRESBYTERIAN kindly excuse one or two sentences of personal reference? It is not worth while to depart from the usual editorial "we," though we should prefer for this once to employ the first personal pronoun in expressing our gratitude to the many kind friends who have welcomed us back to something like direct church work, and have so cordially promised us their sympathy and co-operation in its prosecution. By their words of friendly cheer, they have laid us under deep and lasting obligation, and while their altogether too partial personal references have, without affectation be it said, had a very humbling, they have also had a very stimulating effect, and have tended, we trust, to a re-consecration of mind and heart to the service of that Master for whose honour THE PRESBYTERIAN was at first established, and for the advancement of whose cause it has laboured as it best might during all these past years. We are quite sure that our readers will be pleased when we say that we have no "new departure" to announce, no new schemes to parade, and no new objects to subserve. THE PRESBYTERIAN has never left any one in doubt of its position or its principles. It has claimed no official authority, and has never sought to compromise any of the Church Courts by its utterances. It has been from the first a private enterprise, for whose course neither Church nor Church Court could be held responsible. At the same time it has always aimed at possessing a certain representative character; has sought to speak the "present truth" without fear and without favour; has afforded a means of intercourse between the different sections of the Presbyterian Church, and has tried to interest all in the Home and Foreign work to which that Church has consecrated itself. What it has been in the past, it will be the desire and effort of its conductors to keep it in the future, with at the same time no possible labour spared to make it still more worthy of general support, and a still more acceptable visitor in all our Presbyterian homes.

Perhaps the Church in all its branches has not sufficiently availed itself of the assistance of THE PRESBYTERIAN. Never shall we write a single word which in any way could be construed into belittling the Pulpit. The proclamation of the Gospel by the living

voice of the preacher must in the future, as in the past, be always the great means for bringing men to the knowledge and love of the Saviour. But the Press is a mighty and ever growing power which the Church cannot ignore or neglect without thereby circumscribing its own means of usefulness. It may no doubt be said that if religious newspapers were more vigorously conducted, they would be more generally and generously patronized. Very possibly this is correct. But the converse is equally so—if they were more cordially supported they would be increasingly worthy of support. How it shall be with THE PRESBYTERIAN in the future, we shall not attempt to foreshadow. All that we can promise is, in dependence on Divine assistance, to do our best. If our friends and well-wishers do the same, the result may be satisfactory all round.

We cannot close without tendering our heartfelt thanks to the many brethren of the broad sheet who have so kindly welcomed us to our new, though not altogether untried work. It may be that we shall have in coming days to controvert some of their assertions and arguments, as they may have to do with ours. But we hope that this shall always be done as becomes gentlemen and as members of the same honourable fraternity which has already done so much, and is destined to do still more for the highest and best interests of the race.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE.

EVER since THE PRESBYTERIAN was started it has been favoured with contributions and correspondence from not a few of the ablest and most earnest ministers and members of the Presbyterian Church. We hope to retain the sympathy and assistance of all these and to enlist many more in what we are persuaded is a good work. What we specially aim at is to make THE PRESBYTERIAN, with ever increasing fulness and efficiency, a *news* paper—giving its readers facts and leaving them, in very many cases, to draw the natural and necessary conclusions from these facts for themselves. If even good and liberal people are to feel interested in either religious or benevolent enterprises, they must know about them—must have details of their operations, proofs of their need, and evidences of their success. It is in vain to tell even Christians that they *ought* to feel interested in this, that and the other thing, if they have at best but a vague, indistinct idea of the whole affair, and have little or nothing definite as to that which they are called upon to support, whether with their money or their prayers. They can't do it, and more than that they won't; and any amount of mere scolding or indefinite lecturing upon duty in general will only confirm them in their indifference and strengthen them in their refusal of assistance. To awaken interest and call forth liberality, it is necessary to diffuse information, to take expected contributors into one's confidence, to treat them like shareholders in a commercial enterprise and make them more and more familiar with all the facts. We wish to make THE PRESBYTERIAN increasingly helpful in this good work. In order to this, those who are actively engaged in the work of the Church, whether at home or abroad, whether in old settlements or in frontier townships, are invited to let all know what they are doing and what, through them, and in their localities, our common Lord and Master is graciously accomplishing. We ask no wearisome details. We neither need nor will receive dreary, long-winded moralizings. We may not even be able to find space always for the *ipsisima verba* sent us, even though these be very much what they ought to be. But facts, fresh, interesting and appropriate, will always be acceptable and will always be made the best use of possible. Mere personals we don't care for. Neither we nor our readers have any particular interest in knowing how the Rev. Mr. So and So shifted for the winter from the "blue bedroom into the brown," or how ruddy and radiant some one else appeared on his return from his holiday fishing tour. But we *have* an interest, and we trust we shall always have a deepening one, in the record which tells of the great best cause being on the advance, whether that be in our Canadian cities, our forest homes and our prairie farms, or far hence among the heathen, whether in the east or the west,

among ancient decaying civilizations or among the rude, untutored children of the wilderness. It would augur ill for our readers—ill for the Presbyterians of Canada—if accounts of religious awakenings among our settled congregations, our Home Mission stations or under the eye and through the instrumentality of our foreign missionaries, were ever regarded as uninteresting, passed over as dull, or condemned as dry. We don't believe they ever would. We don't believe that when written as they ought to be, they ever are. We respectfully and earnestly then invite such communications. Let them be short, direct and pithy, and they will scarcely fail to be interesting. Above all, let them be short. In many cases communications have to be set aside simply from their undue length and from their containing irrelevant matter. Such we can indeed use by summarizing; but we prefer, if possible, giving the message in our correspondents' own words, though even that, when everything is as it ought to be, will not be always possible.

If we accomplish with any measure of success this work of collecting, assorting and summarizing the news of our Canadian and other Presbyterian Churches, we shall feel we have done more for the good cause than if we ambitiously and even presumptuously had set ourselves to the task of moulding religious thought, or vainly striving to determine the course of ecclesiastical policy. With the assistance of kind, earnest and judicious correspondents we hope to succeed. Without such co-operation we shall certainly fail. Kind, brotherly promises we have already received, not a few, and so thorough is our confidence in those who have promised that we fully believe they will be more than made good.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

WE are requested to ask those congregations that have not yet forwarded their contributions for the French Evangelization Scheme to do so without delay.

The treasury at the present time is empty, and the salaries of many of the missionaries remain unpaid. The policy adopted by the Board, of keeping free from debt and expending only the money provided by the Church, will necessitate the contraction of the work and the withdrawal from some of the points occupied, unless means are at once forthcoming to carry on the work. In the hope that the requisite funds would be obtained, the Board have recently responded to several urgent applications for missionaries in new and necessitous districts, and mission day schools have within the past two months been opened with most encouraging success at important points.

The pioneer French missionary to Manitoba—Mr. W. Mullins—left in the beginning of October for his distant field of labour. At the request of the Manitoba Presbytery, Mr. Mullins has been sent to break ground at Riviere de Sale, in the Headingly district, where there are several French Catholic parishes.

At Ste. Cecile, in the County of Ottawa, Que., ground has also recently been broken by the Board, a mission day school having been opened and Sabbath services instituted under very hopeful circumstances. The movement among the young French Canadians studying for the priesthood, to which reference was made a few weeks ago, is bearing fruit. Three of these young men have been taken into the service of the Board and are teaching mission schools respectively at Canning street and Russell Hall, Montreal, and at Grenville, Que., the average daily attendance at each of these being upwards of thirty.

At St. Hyacinthe, Que., it is expected that a settled pastor will be inducted soon, the congregation having called Rev. E. D. Pelletier. The Canning street church, Montreal, was this week supplied with a pastor—the Rev. A. B. Cruchet, a young minister of much promise. It will be a matter of very great regret should the Board be compelled by lack of funds to contract the work at this hopeful juncture. To prevent this it is earnestly hoped that congregations will without delay forward their contributions, and that where there are missionary associations, at least a portion of the grants for the French scheme will be sent at once. In former years this scheme has been indebted for large contributions to private individuals, and we doubt not that many of the friends of the Mission will come liberally to its help in the present emergency and give practical proof of their sympathy with the work of the Board by forwarding a donation to the Treasurer, whose address is, Rev. R. H. Warden, 260 St. James street, Montreal.