

the pens of these gentlemen is more than we can understand. Even the minutes of some of the Presbyteries it is impossible to get for our pages. Of course the natural conclusion to which we must come with reference to those Presbyteries to whose Clerks we wrote without receiving in return the courtesy of a reply, is either that they don't take down minutes of their proceedings, or that they are ashamed to show them to the Church and the world. There are a few of our ministers without whom we would have been in a sad pass, time and again. To these gentlemen we return our warmest thanks, and we assure our readers that it is to these men they owe nearly all the pleasure and profit derived from our pages. On these we shall depend for support and valued and valuable assistance in the future.

A word or two to our Agents. Now is the time to put into execution the unanimous desire and determination of the members of Synod met in Halifax, to raise our circulation to two thousand. In the vacancies, we know from experience that a very small effort put forth in a loving spirit could do a vast amount towards our increase. Now is the time to do so. We hope that clergymen will say a few words from their pulpits on our behalf. Agents should be on the alert for non-subscribers. We can pay our way as we are; so that our appeal is not one for merely surplus finance, but simply to give all our people a knowledge of what the Church of Scotland is doing both at home and abroad. In former years the *Record* was a heavy burden upon the Synod Fund, which frequently had to come to the rescue; and now as that Fund has been this year burdened with the expense of the Delegation to Montreal on Union business, we do not see any reason why some of our surplus funds, if our subscriptions increase with the New Year, should not be devoted, if the Synod see fit, towards this additional outlay of the Synod Fund, on the principle that one good turn deserves another. We sincerely hope, therefore, as we cast ourselves on our readers and agents, that a good and hearty response will be given, and that our lists will run up very largely with the New Year.

During the past year we have had, as a Church, very great cause for thankfulness. We have been blessed with a measure of success which must be, on our part, a cause of gratitude to Almighty God. It is true that we have been suffering sadly from want of labourers for our many vineyards at present withering up. But we can look forward with high hope to our young men studying both in Scotch and Colonial Colleges. In a few years, at most, they will be amongst us in the fresh vigour and ardour of youth, to spend and be spent. And we hope ere that period to receive reinforcements from other quarters. Let our people pray, and let our Home Mission Board press the matter of our wants upon the Colonial Committee, and we feel assured that good results will follow.

LETTER FROM REV. MR. GOODWILL.

ANEITEUM, June 24th, 1870.

MR. EDITOR,—In my last, I gave you, as briefly as possible, an account of all my travels until the sailing of the *Dayspring* from Melbourne. She did not leave until the 31st of March, although her time was fixed for the 25th. On Thursday the last day of March, we set sail and came to Queen's Cliff, a distance of about 50 miles. At this pretty little village we had to remain nearly a week, because the wind was quite unfavourable. On the 6th of April we passed the entrance of the harbour, which is about 80 miles from Melbourne. The entrance is quite narrow, and reminded me of the Straits of Canso, except that the scenery is not so bold, picturesque, or beautiful. As you sail either to or from Melbourne, you see, on each side of you, land almost all the way. I am well aware that a graphic description of this harbour would be very interesting.