

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1876.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We have something of a very important nature to say to our subscribers; and as long addresses are not so likely to be attended to, or even read, as short ones, we will make our remarks as brief as possible.

We do not wish to claim the merit of originality when we state, that it is utterly impossible to conduct a journal like our own, circulating several thousand copies weekly, in all parts of the Dominion, without a constant supply of money. It is nothing new therefore, for us to say that we want money every week. But in saying this, we ask no more than what is due to us; and we think that compared with many others, we are exceedingly modest in our demands when we only claim a really "fair field, and no favor."

We are very glad to be able to acknowledge the kindness of some of our subscribers, who have very promptly acceded to our request, to pay their subscriptions in advance. But we must also state, there is a considerable number of subscriptions due for the DOMINION CHURCHMAN, which have not been paid. The amount charged is exceedingly small; and some subscribers seem to imagine that if all the others pay the subscriptions required, their own will not be of much consequence. But what if all the others do not pay? What if nearly half of them do not pay? Why, then these subscriptions, small as they are individually, in the aggregate, amount to a serious sum; and it becomes a very difficult matter to know how to carry on a weekly journal with resources so curtailed, and with means so cramped.

It is not, therefore, without necessity that we address ourselves to our friends, who, we are quite sure, are just as desirous as we are, that our enterprise should meet with success; but from a little want of thought, may not be quite so prompt as is necessary in order to ensure that success.

We announced, some time ago, that our charge would be Two Dollars a year, paid strictly in advance, from the beginning of the present year: if not paid in advance, the price to be as before, Three Dollars. We now add, that if those who are in arrears will pay up those arrears to the first of January last, and send us also Two Dollars in addition, it will be received as payment up to the first of January next. That is, there are some who owe us a dollar and-a-half for last year. If these will send three dollars and-a-half, their subscription will then be paid up to January 1st, 1877. The amount is very small, but when multiplied by a good many hundreds, it becomes so important, that no undertaking can be expected to move on satisfactorily under such circumstances.

Have we said enough to show the necessity for immediate attention to this subject? We can only express a hope

that the importance of it will be so generally felt, that there will be no need to refer to it on our part, for some time to come. The receipt of one or two thousand dollars at our office, during the ensuing week, in response to this appeal, will be a proof that we have not written altogether in vain.

But there is also another subject very closely allied to this, to which we must allude. We are very anxious to increase the circulation of the DOMINION CHURCHMAN, believing that a journal in the interest of the Church, and conducted in this country, is capable of exercising a very important influence in every diocese. There is scarcely a little coterie anywhere, or a newly-fledged sect in any part of the world, that will not make the most strenuous efforts to support and circulate, as widely as possible, a weekly journal, in order to chronicle their progress, and to spread their principles. In this newspaper-reading age, hardly any system is expected to get on without something of the kind. And our own Church, the Catholic and Apostolic Church of the primitive ages, reformed from mediæval error, surely ought to be active enough in "this Canada of ours," to spread through all parts of the country, a weekly account of her enterprises, of her high aims, and of what she actually accomplishes, together with such enunciations of the "old paths," the truths which "we have heard from the beginning," as circumstances might seem to require. We are satisfied, too, that our people will only support, with the warmth and energy necessary to success, a paper brought out in this country. Any other attempt would fail, as on former occasions, to enlist the sympathies of the Church in Canada. Now, if every one of our subscribers would only interest himself enough to make one addition to the number, we can hardly picture to ourselves, the immensely additional stimulus it would give to the enterprise in which we are engaged. We should be encouraged, as far as possible, to improve the general management of the paper; and the Church herself, throughout the Dominion would receive a corresponding increase of life and energy, from the increased attention thus given to the subjects, which most intimately concern her welfare. But our most sanguine expectations will scarcely warrant us in supposing that every subscriber will make even this slight effort for so valuable an object. It becomes, therefore, so much the more essential, that those who feel convinced of their duty in this respect, should avail themselves of every opportunity within their reach, of increasing the circulation of the journal, which is the only Church paper for the Dominion.

In this week's issue will be sent the accounts of those in arrears, which we earnestly hope will be attended to in a remittance by the very first mail after the receipt of the paper.

BISHOP JOHNS.

The venerable Bishop of Virginia, the Right Reverend Bishop Johns, died on the night of April 5th, in his eightieth year, at his beautiful residence at Malvern, near Alexandria, and overlooking the Potomac River. He was one of the few Bishops, connecting the present generation with the heads of the Church of the United States in the earlier periods of its history, that has been privileged to see the Centennial year. His strong constitution gave way under an attack of paralysis from which he was expected to recover, but which caused his removal in a few weeks. This much beloved and venerated servant of God passed away peacefully from the earth, expressing a perfect willingness either to live for the cause of Christ, or to depart and be with his Lord. He was born in Newcastle, July 10th, 1796, and was a son of the Hon. Kingsley Johns. He entered Princeton in 1813, and graduated with distinction. In Philadelphia he placed himself under the guidance and training of Bishop White, by whom he was ordained Deacon in 1819. In 1842 he was elected Assistant Bishop of Virginia. In 1862, upon the death of Bishop Meade, he became sole Bishop of the Diocese. In 1848, he became President of William and Mary College, and also Professor of Moral Science and Ecclesiastical History, which he resigned in 1854. From this time he faithfully discharged the duties of the Episcopal office in the largest diocese of the country.

Fairness and candor, with earnest endeavours for promoting peace in the Church, are characteristics that are universally attributed to the late venerable Bishop, a remarkable example of which is cited in his celebrated sermon preached before the General Convention in 1871. He was nevertheless always understood to be firm and decided in his convictions; and represented in the United States the School of Milner and Simeon, at the same time that he had little sympathy with the bitterness and narrow bigotry of many who usurp the names of those remarkable men. He was truly loyal to the Church of which he was so eminent a Bishop. He will long be remembered for the distinct and truly affectionate letter which he wrote in the prospect of the late unhappy Schism in the Church of the United States. He was not accustomed as too many are, to attribute unworthy motives to those who might belong to another School of thought in his own church; nor was he ever guilty of the error of accusing of dishonesty those who might endeavor to keep the rules of the Church in stricter fashion than himself; nor, again, was he ever known to brand with disloyalty those who might strive more fully than himself to carry out the principles of the Reformers, as enunciated in the Book of Common Prayer. We deeply sympathize with the Sister Church in the loss she has sustained,