

# Editorial

## OUR SECOND BIRTHDAY

WE present ourselves in this number as a two-year-old, believing that our friends will be interested in our second anniversary. We like to think of our readers not as mere spectators of our efforts but as associates with us in a joint theological and religious enterprise, and we offer greetings and thanks for support to one and all.

We speak unashamedly of *support*, because, while we hope to live by the intrinsic merits of the goods we purvey, the real measure of our success is the degree to which we create an expanding circle of friends actively engaged in furthering theological discussion, understanding and achievement throughout Canada. The proposed Canada Council is a sign of an awakening country. Our purpose is to stir devotion to and receive guidance from theology, the queen of the sciences, and to do the kind of service, Christian and ecumenical, visionary and practical, that only a journal of this kind can do in the nation. It will be seen that we have no doubts about the necessity of our mission. Therefore, while not yet satisfied with our performance, we speak unashamedly of support and solicit it more and more widely, because we desire to draw as many as possible into the common task. Our organization is completely voluntary in its personnel, and consists of people who already carry more than their load in other fields. They, our contributors, and Colleges and friends who have dipped into their pockets for our sakes, supply the life-blood by which we live. As on behalf of our readers and ourselves we gratefully acknowledge their labour, we trust that our third year will increasingly demonstrate to them that it is all supremely worth while, by eliciting a growingly active response.

One of the things we have learned in these two years is that more needs to be done than we expected by way of stirring and fostering writers. The urge towards self-expression is too dormant in the theological world. This fact touches the nature and quality of the articles we are able to print and also the extensiveness of the sources upon which we draw. We are very anxious not to be too dependent for articles upon members of the Editorial Committee and their friends, for that will mean too much dependence upon the area in which it holds its meetings. Problems of distance, which so greatly affect Canadian activities, need have little or no effect upon a production of our kind. There are groups all over the Dominion—ministerial, collegiate, in private coteries, in student bodies—in which papers are read and discussion held, not to speak of the quiet thought and reading that go on in many a study. Surely there is much available that a wider circle would be glad to benefit by. We appeal to our readers to send in contributions and to encourage their friends to do so, for the sake of making ownership in the

*Journal* really nation-wide. This kind of support is essential not only to the fulfilment of our task as we conceive it, but to our very existence. We want to stir theological *writing*.

Perhaps a Birthday Number should make some reference to achievements. No small thing has been accomplished in the creation of the *Journal*. We have been given a very kind welcome and have received much appreciation of the high general quality of our articles. We are fortunate beyond words in having the University of Toronto Press as our printers. The handsome format they gave the *Journal* and the accuracy and good taste of their work made an immediate appeal at home and abroad. In addition they maintain personal relations of a kind that has produced in us a high esteem.

Our circulation stands in round figures at thirteen hundred. A hundred and fifty or so did not renew their subscriptions after the first year. It is inevitable that some would find that they had mistaken the character and purpose of the *Journal*. These losses have been offset by the new subscriptions that steadily come in. We are at the moment in the middle of another renewal period, and find, as a good sign, that most renewals are now for two years. If subscribers would renew more promptly, they would help to save the need for a second billing, which is expensive and time-wasting. Some subscribers have warmed our hearts by adding personal donations, without which at the moment we can not continue. If we could achieve the three thousand mark—which should be easily attained in a Canada numbering sixteen million people—the *Journal* would carry itself. We want very much to increase our size and at the same time the variety of our fare, not least by extending our book-review section. We are now engaged in searching hard for people who can write in the fields of Biblical exposition and practical affairs and have a special sub-committee at work on the matter.

We offer warm thanks to the many who in different ways are furthering our project, and trust that we may count on an increasing number of friends to write for us and to extend our circle of readers.

As from this date, new subscriptions and renewals should be sent to the University of Toronto Press, Toronto, who are taking over for us this side of our organisation. Cheques for subscriptions and renewals should be made out to University of Toronto Press, payable at par in Toronto. We are glad to have this service from the Press. Control of the *Journal*, financial and other, remains unchanged.

D. W. H.