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TO OUR READERS.

SEVEN years ago, in August, 1879, appeared the prospectus of *THE CHURCHMAN*, a shilling monthly Magazine, upholding the principles of the Reformation, and consisting of contributions from men of leading among the Clergy and the Laity. In October of the same year, our first number was issued. It contained articles by Canon Garbett, Canon Hoare, Dr. Ryle (now Bishop of Liverpool), Mr. J. Maden Holt, M.P., Canon Tristram, Dr. Cunningham Geikie, and Mr. Eugene Stock; a hymn by the Rev. E. H. Bickersteth (now Bishop of Exeter); reviews and shorter papers by other writers. *THE CHURCHMAN* received a kindly and appreciative welcome. It was admitted, very generally, that the new serial supplied a want; and the testimonies which reached us, in private as well as public criticism, were most encouraging.

After seven years, the influence of *THE CHURCHMAN* being greater, we believe, than it has ever been, and its position well assured, we thankfully acknowledge the success which has rewarded our efforts. We may also venture to say that the promises of our prospectus have been carried out. As to doctrine, the Magazine has been faithful to the lines laid down in the first article of our first number. For ourselves, we have never been afraid of reasonable and reverential discussion; and upon secondary matters, we think, differences of opinion are often to be welcomed. In regard to the inspiration and authority of Holy Scripture, *THE CHURCHMAN* has proved, we are told, an able advocate. Articles upon the work and history of the National Church have been contributed by representative men of the highest standing. In matters of "Church Reform," the Magazine from the first has taken a leading part. While earnestly advocating reforms, particularly in the way of elasticity and adaptation, *THE CHURCHMAN* has opposed (and will continue to oppose) all changes of a latitudinarian cast. Controversial questions have been handled, as was promised, in a spirit of courtesy and candid construction. Papers upon missions to the heathen and evangelistic efforts at home, expositions of Scripture,

statements and suggestions upon spiritual work, have been reckoned of high value. In other ways, too, our promises of August, 1879, have been fulfilled. Literary and historical papers, essays for the "general reader" of culture, reviews of theological works, and articles on current events, of important political, social, and religious bearing, have appeared in *THE CHURCHMAN*, in due proportion.

We very gratefully acknowledge the literary aid of a large number of contributors, clerical and lay (touching whose ability and judgment it is needless we should say one word), and the kindly and judicious counsel given by many Churchmen who warmly welcomed the Magazine, and have never ceased to recommend it.

To one feature in the success of *THE CHURCHMAN*, mentioned by many of our friends, we have attached a singular importance, viz., the co-operation of clergymen and laymen who, upon many points holding differing views, are sound and staunch defenders of that priceless heritage, which just now, in so many ways, is the object of open and insidious attack.

In order to extend the influence of a Magazine which has thus done good service, we have come, after careful consideration, to a conclusion which will result, we hope and believe, in a very large increase of its circulation.

Some months ago, in a letter from an esteemed supporter (the Prebendary will pardon our quotation), we found these words: "The only fault I ever hear against *THE CHURCHMAN* is its price. The men I speak to about the Magazine fully admit its fairness, high tone, power, and so forth, but they find it difficult in these 'hard times' to afford a shilling a month." Similar suggestions from hard-working incumbents, as well as from laymen, and also from curates, have reached us now and then within the last two years. The pecuniary position of a large proportion of rural rectors and vicars, with wheat at its present price, is growing worse and worse. And owing to the "depressed" state of affairs throughout England and Ireland, many Churchfolk who would gladly "take in" *THE CHURCHMAN*, find a shilling a month a real obstacle.

We have therefore concluded, after consultation, to issue the Magazine, beginning with October, 1886, at sixpence a month. The change is great, but we make it with confidence.

In type and appearance *THE CHURCHMAN* will remain as it is. Of the contributors still remaining to the Church, by whose pens our pages have been enriched, we do not lose one, while other dignitaries and eminent laymen have promised help, so that the interest, character, and efficiency of the Magazine will be fully maintained. No pains will be spared, indeed, to make *THE CHURCHMAN* more generally acceptable.

A full prospectus of the New Series will be found in this number.