

commences with July, and in increasing the subscription list. No travelling agent can be employed. Dependence must be placed on that local co-operation to which the "Canadian Independent" has been so much indebted from the beginning. These efforts need to be renewed year by year. New subscribers can be obtained by proper exertion in every locality. No family connected with the denomination should be without the "*Independent*." As an encouragement to canvassers, six copies will be sent as directed, on the receipt of \$5.

It is hoped that the arrangements in respect to the business department of the Magazine may lead to a considerable increase in its circulation. Should this be realized, and a surplus remain after payment of necessary charges, the Proprietors will devote it to the improvement of the Magazine.

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### RETIRING CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS TO THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF CANADA,

DELIVERED BY THE REV. F. H. MARLING, AT TORONTO, JUNE 9th, 1859.

BELoved BRETHREN,—In preparing to fulfil the duty which our Constitution requires of the retiring Chairman, no topic for this address has occurred to me as more timely or appropriate than that of this Union itself, the objects it has in view, and the means it takes to secure them. We are a purely voluntary association of ministers and churches, with a self-created constitution. A Congregational church is complete, in all that constitutes it a church of Christ, apart from any connection with such a body as this. We do not look suspiciously on the good standing of any church or minister declining to enter this organization, if otherwise they approve themselves to be worthy. We do not claim any ecclesiastical power: we neither ordain or depose ministers, form or disband churches, appoint or remove a pastor or deacon, nor attempt to say in any case who shall or who shall not be a member of any particular church. Such functions we not only do not claim, but most distinctly and solemnly repudiate. If invoked to exercise them, we never for one moment hesitate to refuse. Says the 3rd article of our Constitution, "This Union is founded on a full recognition of the distinctive principle of Congregational Churches, namely, the Scriptural right of every separate Church to maintain perfect independence in the government and administration of its own particular affairs, and therefore the Union shall not in any case assume Legislative Authority or become a Court of Appeal." This law is faithfully obeyed and jealously defended.

But while we disown all pretensions to ecclesiastical authority, we find an ample field for Christian fellowship and co-operation in matters not affecting the independence of the churches, and even for *consultation* on points involving Church-order, without giving out a binding decision. And, I think, we find that the exclusion of many questions that are brought into a legislative and judicial body, and the necessity for agreement where moral influence is the only power claimed and exercised, do very greatly tend to lessen the occasions of discord and to induce us to labour for unity. Has not this been our experience?

#### CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

These meetings together, considered simply as means of grace, with their many occasions for worship and brotherly communion, apart from what we call *business*, are themselves pleasant and profitable enough to call for such an association.