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EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

THE year has gone beyond recall, and a new year opens up to us with its duties, its privileges, its hopes and fears. Looking back over the year denominationally, as chronicled in these pages, there have been no very marked events to arrest attention and to demand comment, but a close observer will have noticed a general absence of disturbing elements and a quiet settling down to work, which are not without significance. College and missionary societies are both working under new auspices, and both have already manifested decided advance in efficiency and spirit. *Laus Deo.*

Life is ever a conflict; its exercise is a battling ever with death. Liberty is only preserved by constant vigilance. We are not, therefore, to wonder nor repine because the conflict is ever with us. A year of quiet settling down to work is but the beginning of the toil to which we are called. Let then the present New Year be one of steady up-and-on-looking, not backward are our glances bent, but onward to our Father's home.

THE subject of additional aid to our Provincial University is calling forth what we are constrained to view as a narrow denominational zeal. Congregationalists will not be true to their history and traditions if they encourage the denominational opposition to the further efficiency of the Toronto University on Provincial grounds. The universities controlled by the respective denominations, for whose special interest they were established, have done, are doing, a good work, and their establishment is fully justified, yea, was necessitated by the narrow and bigoted policy of the then Government, led as it was by the patrons and representatives of what would have been the State Church. But the strug-

gle, in which the fathers of Canadian Congregationalism took no unimportant part, by which the arrogant claims of the old "Family Compact" party were successfully resisted, has given us a system of public education, of which, with all its faults, Canadians may justly be proud. Of that system in Ontario the Toronto University is the crown, and the people of Ontario should take that interest therein which will keep it fully abreast of the requirements of the age. As a matter of fact, it is Provincial, and the Province is bound to care for its child, unless—which Heaven forbid—the Province is ready to split up still more its educational system on lines of sectarian cleavage. That denominational universities are doing undenominational work on strictly private beneficence is no reason why a Provincial Institution should depend upon a similar source for the increase of its efficiency; and the fact that these denominational institutions are confessedly endowed inadequately, affords a sorry reason surely for keeping inadequate the staff and appliances of the more thoroughly national university. We do desiderate a Christian State and State institutions, in the broad, best meaning of that adjective, we do not want to be cursed with denominational strife in those measures which are designed for the general good of all our citizens.

Speaking of denominational colleges, reminds us of the college question in the great Methodist Union, which is being surely and solidly consummated. The Victoria and Albert Universities, at Cobourg and Belleville respectively, are to be consolidated into one, under the name of the former, Victoria. Their union can but add to the efficiency of the United College, and considering the work already accomplished by both these colleges, we are led to expect with great confidence, that the new Victoria will not only maintain the