

PREFACE.

THE present, which is the Twentieth Annual Volume, is intended as a repertory of the public transactions of the Congregational churches of Canada during the year—from July to July. Our agencies have multiplied; the last and most notable being the Foreign Missionary work, and the Woman's Board—and a larger number of reports are therefore presented than at first; and we endeavor to improve the issues in correspondence with the improvement of mechanical art among us. Yet there is much still to aim for; the returns of almost every department might be more complete than they are. We at present desire, and have asked and do ask, two things: the full name of every minister, and the name of every Church-Secretary (and where there is no Secretary, to have one appointed). When we get these, there will be other things we want—for we repudiate the doctrine of *finality*.

Will the churches suffer us to suggest a free distribution of the YEAR BOOK among the families of members and regular hearers? Taking it on the lowest ground, it will be found to pay: in most cases there will be very much more than fifteen cents' worth of increased interest in the support of the church; arising from the wider information of the churches' work. The *Canadian Independent* says: "Instead of asking a man to give you