

# THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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## A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

By the time these lines meet our readers' eyes 1882 will all but, if not altogether have passed away. Life's shadows lengthen—the end draweth nigh. Yet after winter, spring; after the old year, the new; after death—reader, think! With the New Year may New Year's blessings come; to churches and pastors, families, friends, and children where the INDEPENDENT'S voice is heard, we send our greetings, and as we continue to knock monthly at your doors may your hearts open to us as ours does to you. What shall be our New Year's message? That grace, mercy and peace may abound more and more is but a Christian wish that pervades all true hearts, and embraces all others. Is there a specific word included in these blessings we would bring forth? Yes, and it is this. Our Congregationalism has put forth as its axiom that the Unity of the Spirit is a more true and practical ground of fellowship than paper creeds and permanent organizations. Let us strive to manifest that unity, else we prove either our axiom false or the spirit wanting. There is a function for a body of Churches in the manifestation of a basis of fellowship, broad as that platform on which all Evangelical Churches are agreed to stand; in exemplifying the sufficiency of Evangelical truth to form a bond of fellowship and work; let that function be acknowledged, and our energies bent to the performance of the same, and to this end may the Spirit of all grace and peace be poured out this New Year, which then will be happy indeed. God grant it. Amen.

## EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

AFTER a severe illness the Archbishop of Canterbury passed away on Dec. 2nd, his last words being "It is coming." With the exception of the Lord Chancellor the Archbishop of Canterbury ranks highest among the peers of

the realm, taking precedence of all Dukes save the Royal family. Archibald Campbell Tait was born in Edinburgh, was successively Master of Rugby, Dean of Carlisle, Bishop of London and then Archbishop of Canterbury. He was of the Evangelical School with decided Broad Church tendencies, an able administrator, impartial, peaceful, but firm in principle. While at Carlisle one-half of his family were swept away by scarlet fever, and in 1878 he lost his wife. These afflictions left their permanent traces upon his life. This past year his son of high hopes and promise, Rev. Crawford Tait, was also removed by death, and one of the primate's brightest hopes dashed to the ground. At the age of threescore years and ten he has followed to that land where in clearer light life's mysteries are to be seen. A wise and good, if not a great man has passed to his home.

OUR brethren of the various Methodist fellowships in Canada are earnestly looking the question of organic Union in the face, and another year may see the varied forces of Methodism in the Dominion united. There can be no doubt that such an union will do much towards husbanding the resources of the church and do away with much unseemly rivalry. We have in our mind's eye a village of say two hundred inhabitants in a sparsely settled district with three churches, all Methodist, rejoicing in three separate Sunday services with an average attendance of twenty each. Already in foreign mission fields evangelical churches are beginning to see the wisdom of not establishing rival interests, it is neither Christian nor according to common sense to unduly divide at home. We hail the manifest tokens of the time to unite upon broader Christian lines than seemed possible in the days of the past. The joint union Committee of the various churches have seemingly come to a virtually unanimous report favourable to union.