

THE

Canadian Independent Magazine.

VOL. V.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1858.

No. 6.

EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-EIGHT.

From the earliest times it has been customary to erect memorials of great events. Many a bloody field is marked by sculptured column : or the rude memorial of a barbarous age, moss-grown and gnawed by the tooth of time, tells of hoary superstitions and giant despotisms that have passed away. Patriarchal piety reared a pillar as the memorial of the covenant made with God, on the spot hailed as none other than the house of God and the very gate of heaven. The twelve stones at Gilgal taught succeeding generations what the Lord did for the faithful generation, who crossing Jordan dry-shod set foot on the promised land. Under the shadow of the stone set up at Mizpeh, faith gave utterance to adoring gratitude and firm confidence,—“Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.”

The events of the year that is now closing call for review. Another year has almost gone bearing with it an influence on coming time and coming eternity. It has been crowded with events. Let its Lessons be gathered as flowers wherewith to weave a garland to deck the brow of immortality. Set up a memorial. The tale of its days has brought the ordinary events which make up the history of life; births and deaths, light and darkness, sunshine and storm. Yet, there are matters which stand out distinctly : the great events of 1858. These strike us as wearing the garments of servants of the most High God. They cry, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord.”

It has been a year of secular depression. Idols broken down and swept away make room for the rightful monarch of the soul. God says, “Give me thine heart.” “Cease ye from man.” “Set your affections on things above.” Remember the faith that sings though the fig tree should not blossom. And look there to a tenantless closet; enter in and hide thee until these calamities be over and gone.

It has been a year in which multitudes have entered the Kingdom of Christ. Many have stood up for Jesus. Thousands have been found in the valley of decision. A vast accession has been made to the working power of the living Church. A clear illustration has been given of the power of prayer to gain the ear that is filled with the songs of angels; and move the arm that directs the course of ten thousand mercies. The flame of piety has been lit, we trust to glow as an ever burning flame, like the fire on ancient altars.

It has been a year of progress in the means of communication among nations