

THE
CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

VOL. XI.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1865.

No. 8.

COUNTING THE COST.

No one should become a follower of Christ without calmly and deliberately looking at all the consequences of the step. "Which of you intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" Religious consideration is necessary. **THE COST OF BECOMING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS IS TO BE COUNTED.** *There are difficult and prolonged duties to be discharged.* Instead of being smooth and decked with flowers, there may be much roughness in the path. Strait is the gate. The mortification of pride and selfishness may cost many tears, strong crying, agonizing prayers. We may be sure that the lofty looks of man shall be brought low and the haughtiness of man subdued. The yoke of Christ must be taken if we go to him. "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly, and ye shall find rest to your souls." This yoke, in the view of unenlightened minds, is irksome and heavy. Many are offended at Christ for his requirements, for opposition to all iniquity is his unconditional demand. If the heart is joined to iniquity he is not known. Numerous duties are pointed out to the willing disciple. In them no imprisonment of soul is found; no man complains in wearing a crown, that his head is bound around by a circle of gold. Great honour attends obedience,—“ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I have commanded you.”

The cost consists also in sacrifices which must be made. Preconceived opinions—views of ambition, honour, power, must be abandoned—what things were gain are counted loss for Christ. The cross, though painful and heavy, is to be carried; every rag of the old garments of self-righteousness burned. The axe must be laid to the root of every tree that bringeth forth evil fruit. It may be necessary to sacrifice the good opinion of our dearest friends, to forsake some of our chosen companions, to deny ourselves most coveted objects, to give up some of our largest profits. The power of truth on the heart and conscience requires a walk and conversation becoming the gospel.

To count the cost implies an expectation of trials and temptations. In the world ye shall have tribulation. Trial may come in the form of false accusation. Satan may sift the soul as wheat; fierce temptation assaulting the citadel of the heart; at our feet may be laid advantageous offers of worldly gain, the price of which is our faithfulness or honesty, and the sacrifice of all regard to the Saviour's golden rule. The frown of the world, when we testify therefore that its deeds are evil. Chastening also from our Heavenly Father,