

## PREFACE TO VOLUME XVIII.

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In writing the last words of these twelve monthly issues, and reviewing the contents of the yearly volume thus completed, mingled thoughts and feelings are awakened within us.

We are more and more profoundly impressed, continually, with the vast influence of the Press ; and our experience in connection with this magazine makes us feel how essential such an organ of communication is to the well-being and the unity of our churches and all their institutions. Our ideal of the possible excellence of periodical literature is ever rising, partly under the influence of actual examples, and partly in visions of still better things to come. Our own realisation of that ideal, within these pent-up limits, is more disappointing, in this third incumbency of the editorial chair, than ever it was before. Still, we believe a good service has here been done for Christ and our brethren, and for that we are thankful.

The circulation of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT, however, is not what it ought to be. While some pastors and churches nobly hold up our hands, others are very apathetic. With double our present list, we could furnish more than twice as good a magazine ! Shall not that be realized in 1872-'3 ?

Heartly thanks to all our helpers, by canvass or literary contribution ; and chiefly to Rev. John Wood and Rev. W. W. Smith, whose stated co-operation, in special departments, has lightened our labours and added value and variety to our pages.

F. H. M.

TORONTO, May 20, 1872.