

Correspondence.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The spirit of writing seems to have set in upon our friends with great power, at this season; and we are right glad of it. It does them good to utter their thoughts; and it does their brethren good to read them. We want to have the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT "racy of the soil." But this prolific condition compels us to say a new word on the old theme of *brevity*. It is much easier to write a long article than a short one. It is much easier to say to an editor, "do as you like with it, cut it down at your discretion," than to revise it yourself. But a good mechanic would rather build a new house, or make a new piece of furniture, than repair an old one: and we have spent more time, in our excess of kindness, in licking into shape overgrown or unshapely productions of contributors, than in penning our own. We do not grudge this labour with young and inexperienced writers, but when it is put on us by skillful penmen—we must "strike!" An apology for undue length does us very little service; it does not make room for those other articles which are so urgent to get in, and the crowd of which, every month, is so great, that "we groan, being burdened" with the impossibility of accomodating them. In our *sanctum*, we are not in the mood of travellers, who gossip with one another by the hour to wile away the time; or of friends, who want to have a long evening's "crack" together; we are in a business office, at the busiest hour of the day; and we want every one to say his say in the briefest style possible, and then—make room for his waiting neighbours. This, be it understood, not because we do not enjoy the first caller's company, but because we do not like to keep his neighbour waiting. The old rhetorician's rule—"strike out every other word"—is a pretty good one, especially for those chatty writers, whose pens can caper over reams of paper without thinking of being tired. This is the day of three-minute speeches, and of one-page articles. The shorter the "piece" the sooner it will get in. It is *not* the wise man's "voice," that "is known by multitudes of words." It is just because we want to give every one a hearing, that has a good word to say, that we protest against stealing their time or space.

One word to those whose articles do *not* get in, especially to poetical contributors. There are a score of reasons first for delay and then for omission, which we cannot state here publicly, or by private correspondence. Time fails for the latter, and the task is too delicate. We must ask our friends to attain as nearly as possible to that state of mind which Dr. Campbell, in a fit of what Mr. Binney called "sublime impudence," inculcated upon his readers, (we believe in the preface to a volume of tl. *Christian Witness*,.)—"The public creed concerning an editor ought to have but one tenet; and that one—INFALLIBILITY." "So no more at present from yours truly."

CONGREGATIONAL COLLEGE OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

DEAR SIR,—I am not sure what subscriptions have been reported by me for the present year, but after the needed letter of Prof. Cornish, and your own notice of last month, it may be well to shew cause of hopefulness. I therefore report in tabular form from the beginning of present year, what I have received from the following churches, and against this I place last year's subscription, shewing the increase:—