

THE
CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

Vol. VI.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1860.

No. 10.

RESULT OF THE SIMULTANEOUS EFFORT FOR REV. W. F. CLARKE.

To the Congregational Churches of Canada, with their Bishops and Deacons.

DEAR BRETHREN,—I have just despatched the following letter to Rev. W. F. Clarke, Victoria, V. I., and as it aims to express your sentiments, and embodies the facts you will expect to hear from me, I think I cannot do better than copy it entire:

DEAR BROTHER,—In a communication dated 25th November last, you informed me of the steps you had taken towards providing church-accommodation for your hearers in Victoria, and laid upon me the honourable charge of procuring at least \$400 from the Congregational Churches in Canada, to aid you in that undertaking. I now have the pleasure of sending you the enclosed draft on the Branch Bank B. N. A., for that amount and *ten dollars more*, (less \$4 charged by the Bank,) on account of that object, for further contributions are to follow.

I am sorry that over four months will have intervened between the sending of your request and the arrival of this reply, but, as you are aware, your letter found us in the midst of our annual missionary meetings, at which time and for some weeks after, it would have been injurious to both objects to have asked for another collection. The second Sabbath in March seemed to be the earliest day which we could properly name for this simultaneous effort.

With the advice and sanction of the Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of the Union, the churches were accordingly requested, through the *Canadian Independent*, to cast their mites on that day into your treasury. The appeal, as you have seen, was hardly anything more than a copy of your own statement of the case, which was so forcible in itself, and was going to hearts so prepared for it, that I felt it was enough without any enforcement on my part. Beyond the issue of the same letter in circular form to pastors or other representatives of the several churches, *nothing* has been done to secure attention to your request. The result shows that this confidence in our brethren was not misplaced, but that, as you said, "the Canadian churches were aching to show their interest in the British Columbian mission in some practical way."

The amount I now send you, as you will see from the enclosed list, has been contributed by 43 Churches, 2 Sabbath schools, and seven private individuals. You will share in my surprise that so many churches made it convenient to collect on that day. In two cases, where this could not be done, the pastors have advanced the amount of your "average," assured that their people will make it up. Some of the churches whose names you will miss, will still contribute their quota, though unable to do so just now. Among their number are those that abound in every good work. You know the feeble and disorganised condition of several churches, whose names are on our roll, well enough to understand why every place has not sent something. And on the other hand, you will be gratified to see how this call has evoked a response from some that you may have thought ready to die. Taking the returns, present and prospective, altogether, I may truly say that there has been amongst us a *universal* putting forth of the hand to help you. I have not had one refusal.

You may understand this contribution, therefore, as an expression of our hearty interest in the British Columbian Mission. As British North American colonists ourselves, we know the heart of a stranger, and of a young country. To no other colony do Canadians look with so much interest as to yours—a part of our own continent, the advance post of our empire's westward march, and the future home of so many who will call this their "old country."