

ing food to the mind of our church and nation. Thousands of our youth, and most of the heads of religious families, feel the need of aids to mental and religious culture, and we propose to offer aid in the form and manner now presented. We entertain a deep conviction of responsibility in this matter, and believe that the time has come when our best endeavours should be exerted to meet the growing wants of these times.

We have among our ministry and laity a large class of intelligent and cultivated minds, who have felt the need of a periodical which might become the Repository of their best and matured thoughts on various topics of national and connexional interest. In the department of Christian Ethics and Biblical Criticism we have long required a medium of utterance, in a somewhat permanent form, and the hope is strongly cherished that not only shall we be able to gratify those who have written and still write for the press, but that many will be prompted to greater diligence in study, and carefully prepare their meditations for the benefit of others. It has been well said that "Periodical literature, though comparatively modern, has become the chief power of the pen. In England and France, and to a considerable extent in Germany, the best authors avail themselves of it as the most effectual access to the public mind. Its advantages are too manifest to need remark." Canada must not be behind any other country in this respect, and we invite the co-operation of brethren that the Wesleyan Repository may become the centre and source of varied information and instruction for all classes. We should be glad to make this Magazine entirely original, but unless such matter be spirited and vigorous we are persuaded it would not be as welcome as superior selections from the best sources. These are abundant, and having access to them as they issue from the prolific press of England and America, we shall never lack materials for a sound, healthy, and therefore useful monthly. We have no taste for the "hifalutin," spread-eagle kind of literature, but we think this specimen number will show that our tastes are of that kind which may be cultivated without fear of tripping, and which will be found agreeable to the notions of those who love our glorious old Saxon tongue.

It may be said that in this country, with our present advanced means of communion with other countries, our people can get all the periodical literature they desire. It may be so, but we have no hesitation in writing, that there is a vast amount of current literature which it is not desirable they should obtain. There is pernicious poison in a great many Magazines found on the centre-tables of Christian families. We avow our design to endeavour to supplant the evil by offering that which will bear the test of Bible principles, and which, therefore, may safely be placed in every family in the land. And even if unexceptionable literature could be easily and cheaply obtained from other lands, it is nevertheless highly desirable that