

the things that remain." Should Congregationalists surrender that faith once delivered to them by the old Independents the world at large might wail out "if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? it is," &c., &c.

I am, Gentlemen, yours truly,

Toronto, May 19, 1860.

JOHN ROAF.

### LETTER FROM DR. WILKES.

*To the Editor of the Canadian Independent*

MONTREAL, 21st May, 1860.

There must undoubtedly exist in the minds of many, an anxious desire to know what are the views of the Colonial Missionary Society on the unhappy difference between their two Missionaries in Vancouver's Island. It is probably known that soon after the case made its appearance in London, it called into exercise the serious and protracted consideration of the Committee, which resulted in a series of four resolutions, with a copy of which I was favoured. They contained a statement of the object of the Society; a declaration of uniform policy not to interfere with existing social usages in the Colonies, and also, save in extreme cases, to avoid all dictation to Churches they may aid; an expression of the need of leaving large discretion to their Agents in distant Colonies, and of consequent forbearance and charity on their part, and a refusal to judge at all between these brethren, accompanied by a hint that they had somewhat failed to forbear with one another in love.

These resolutions were not sent to me for publication, and as our Churches in Canada were not officially interested in them, they were not sent to you. But personally I felt called upon to send a strong remonstrance to the Committee, which they have honoured by giving to it deliberate consideration; a reply to which I have before me, dated 30th April. It is signed by the Treasurer and Secretary of the Society. It is not for publication, but such use as is now made of it is authorized.

"In order to a clear understanding of the present circumstances in which we are unfortunately placed," they say, "it may be necessary to review the Mission from the commencement. Our Society existing and labouring for the spiritual benefit of the Colonists, 'British and other European settlers and their descendants,' no sooner was the Colony of British Columbia organized than our Committee determined to institute a mission for its welfare, and solicited from the friends of the Society special contributions for the purpose. We had no thought of the colored races, either Negro or Indian, indeed we were in entire ignorance of the fact that any of the former were found there. We thought it might tend to promote the object we had in view, if of the two brethren first selected, one should be well acquainted with the usages of colonial life, and the other should be a *quasi* representative of our British Churches. We accordingly applied to you to look out one of our Canadian brethren, whilst we endeavoured to find a suitable man in this country." After adverting to their gratification in finding two such men, they go on to state—"These two brethren were jointly appointed to conduct this mission, with coordinate jurisdiction and perfect equality in every respect. Letters of instruction were addressed to them to this effect, but nothing was said to convey the slightest idea of superiority of one over the other." Surprise is expressed that I should speak of Mr. Clarke as "having possession of the field," because he happened to be in the colony a fortnight earlier than Mr. Macfie: and the Committee distinctly disclaim all sympathy with the idea of seniority or