

## PREFACE TO VOLUME XXIII.

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“Done!” We write the words with sensible relief. Though more imaginary than real, the pause that comes between the end of the old and the commencement of the new volume, affords a kind of breathing time, and for a moment or two, at least, we may take our hand off the lever, and look back over the road we have travelled. We have come fast and far. A few more such “runs” will carry most of us across this narrow isthmus separating the two great eternities! What we do, let us do it with our might!

Prefaces are but little read. Their chief use is to fill up a vacant page. We shall not waste our time, therefore, in writing a long one. We wish only to thank all who have helped us in our endeavour to make this Magazine what it is designed to be—instructive, helpful, and interesting. For those who have not, we can only pray, as we are required to do, for those who “despitefully use” us.

An important change has taken place in the Proprietary during the year, in the transference of the Magazine into the hands of THE CONGREGATIONAL PUBLISHING COMPANY, incorporated under the “Ontario Joint Stock Companies’ Letters Patent Act, 1874.” The transference involves no change in the general plan and purpose of the Magazine, the only object being to place its affairs upon a proper business footing, and so pave the way for improvement in several directions. We want all our friends to take “stock” in it, both mental and monetary. Only thus can we make it what we desire it to be.

J. W.

TORONTO, May 29th, 1877.