

# THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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## EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

FOR the past three years the editorial work and business management of this paper have been given without remuneration, save that of a good conscience, and the consciousness of an honest endeavour to serve the denomination by serving the Master. We have received from some of our exchanges flattering notice, and from one or two prominent ministers of our body in England words of encouragement. So far as the present issue is concerned, we feel that the enterprise is gaining a secure and permanent footing. With the strictest economy, income and expenditure are made to meet—at least so far as the printers' work is concerned. But we are sadly hampered in the way of improvement. Had we a financial margin, there are many improvements could be made at the present cost of issue. Is it creditable that we should be continually thus hampered? We are making arrangements by which we expect to very much enlarge our news of the churches, thus aiding in that most necessary work of strengthening our union. We hope also to do much more regarding information from Foreign Mission fields. We do not expect to do all this ourselves, having help promised from two friends thereon. Congregationalism, by giving each member his place, expects each man to do his duty. What we want in our Congregational editorship is every subscriber to help us: first, by seeing his own subscription regularly paid; secondly, by adding one or more names to our paying list. The New Year is nearing; a new volume will thus be begun; and subscriptions obtained before the New Year shall have the remainder of this year free. We are asking for nothing unreasonable. We are working constantly free; may we not justly ask the same, dear reader, from you? Thirdly, those who can, let them send news of churches, or contributed articles, brief, pithy, wise. We have room for such.

WE do not like disagreeable subjects, and debt to us is especially disagreeable, but we must speak. The old debt incurred by the managers of this paper, in days past, is still unpaid. Some freewill offerings have been received therefor. Who of our friends will volunteer their mite, to aid in wiping out what we consider a denominational disgrace?

WE hear, more than occasionally, outcries against the intolerant bigotry of the Christian faith, the dogmatism and narrowness of its supporters. Liberalism has its narrowness also. There is a college in the United States, founded and endowed by a Mr. Girard, of which we personally know very little, save that, by a provision of its endowment, no Christian minister is allowed to enter its walls. The friend who founded it had evidently not taken kindly to the cloth. Christians are not excluded—only the clergy. The late President was a Christian man; his residence being within the walls, his pastor could not visit him during his last illness; even his son, had he been a minister, would have been prohibited. A Chinaman could burn his incense in the chapel there, but no accredited clergyman could enter to take part in the funeral services. We do not admire the *tu quoque* argument, but we cannot help sitting impatiently under lectures for narrowness from the dogmatism of liberal free (?) thought of which this is an example.

WE copied last month some apparently discouraging statistics of our Congregational churches in the United States, from a correspondent in our esteemed contemporary, the *Advance*. We expressed on our own part a doubt as to the infallibility of the statistical column, whilst acknowledging freely its value. Our contemporary has been going over its correspondent's figures, and gives another colouring, of which we gladly avail ourselves.