

THE
CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

Vol. VI.

TORONTO, JULY, 1859.

No. 1.

WHERE ARE WE?

Religious men, admit the importance of self-examination. Lurking evils are thereby detected in the hidden chambers of the heart, and brought out to the light of truth, that they may die. Immense advantages issue from the enquiry, Where am I? to the mind searching for truth. The clear perception of the true position of an argument, is necessary to its successful establishment and defence. In war, the mystery thrown around the movements of armies, and the concealment of the ground occupied, may secure success. A knowledge of the exact position of the Allied forces, in a recent battle in Italy, might have shielded Austria from ignominious defeat. The utility of a calm and clear view of the actual position of important questions, affecting us in our work for time and for eternity, is evident.

This question we do not put as to our Editorial position, with the burdens and hopes of another year before us; or as to the prospects of the *Canadian Independent*, trusting that the question shall be solved at the close of the year, in a satisfactory account, resulting from the generous support of the churches, and the enlightened contributions of gifted brethren to the pages of their own periodical.

It is in view of the state of the churches, and the position we occupy as a denomination in this country, that the question has suggested itself, as likely to stimulate to thought and action; and may lead to the elucidation of great truths, affecting our progress and the glory of Christ, if an answer were given by some of those honoured brethren, who have been in this field from the beginning.

Here we are, at what may be deemed the commencement of our Ecclesiastical year; at such a time, the tabernacle of the Lord was set up. The meeting of the Union may be deemed a culminating point; we review the past, we anticipate the future. It should be like Pisgah. It is a time of stock-taking. The review of the ground has impressed on our mind the fact, that God has blessed us with gradual growth; that we are ready for more work; that our financial condition is good; that we have no reason to draw back discouraged, but are called to go forward, seeking a higher degree of spiritual vigor, a stronger faith in God, and an undaunted spirit to utter fearlessly, the truth as it is in Jesus.

Where are we? Our work is before us, let us understand it, and accomplish it.

We are in churches that maintain a testimony, which, to be effectual, demands the consistency of holy living, and the supremacy of Christian love.