

THE HARBINGER,

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF GENTLEMEN.

In malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.—*St. Paul.*

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CONTENTS.—Preliminary Address—*Lower Canada*—Montreal—Quebec—Durham—Russelltown—Broom—*Upper Canada*—Toronto—Congregational Union—Intemperance—The times we live in—Congregational Union of England and Wales—Colonial Missionary Society—Home Missionary Society—Bible Circulation—Bible Education—Church of Scotland—Bishops of Jerusalem—Conversion to Romanism—Christian Missions—British India—Poetry.

TO OUR READERS.

INSTEAD of issuing a Prospectus of this work prior to its commencement, we have preferred to issue an extra edition of the first number for general circulation.

The *Harbinger* has its origin in a very generally expressed desire, amongst the Congregational Churches in both sections of the United Province, for a medium of communication with one another through the Press, and for a larger measure of regular information, concerning the movements of the Christian Church in Great Britain—her Colonies, and throughout the world. It is not compatible with the design of any existing periodical work, to lay before the Christian public in Canada, even an epitome of those gigantic efforts, which Congregationalists in Great Britain and the United States, have been putting forth during the last half century, for the evangelization of the world. And yet does it appear a matter of some moment, not only to them, but to the Christian Church generally, that such information should be fully communicated. They who would know what the Lord is doing in these latter days, must not overlook the labours of any portion of the militant host of the Lord.

At this point, the conductors of the *Harbinger* are desirous of disavowing in the most express and decided terms, an anti-catholic temper or design. They rejoice in the progress of Evangelical Religion, in any section of that vast spiritual body—which alone is entitled to the designation of “The Holy Catholic Church,” and they recognize as a member of that body, every one who loves our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. In the successful labours of every such faithful disciple, they unfeignedly rejoice; and while they desire to fill up a *hiatus* in the periodical literature of Canada in regard to their own denomination, they design also to afford all the intelligence within their reach, of every holy enterprise, from whatever source it may emanate.

The name that has been adopted, is designed to convey, or rather to record the impression of the projectors of the *Harbinger*, that a brighter day is dawning on Canada. Assuredly since its first settlement, no period has arisen so pregnant with events of an onward and happy tendency, or so full of hope regarding all the interests of the country,