

P R E F A C E .

WE have aimed throughout another year to impart life to our pages; with what measure of success our readers must judge. However feebly the work may have been done, our object has been to avoid dry-as-dust disquisitions, and present living action, with a view to rouse to love and good works. A periodical that serves no useful purpose in meeting the wants of those who sustain it, will soon perish. We therefore seek to render our pages a vehicle of strong and healthy Christian sentiment, and of certain sound in all the great essentials of Christian doctrine, that our days may be long in the land. To facilitate the operations of the Congregational Churches in their missionary, educational, and general work has been our endeavour, united, however, we trust, with a generous liberality to other branches of the universal Church. To degenerate into sectarian bigotry, and live by abusing those who differ from us, would be to become a curse and not a blessing: from such a spirit may the *Canadian Independent* ever be delivered. The future is lighted up with the hope that our denominational periodical literature will wax stronger and stronger, and never cease to bring all honour to Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.

BOWMANVILLE, *May*, 1861.