

## PREFACE.



IN this the twenty-sixth issue of the YEAR BOOK, we give an increased number of portraits. These are easier obtained than when the present Editor took hold of the publication, twelve years ago. We determined to put in such illustrations as we could, and as the income of the YEAR BOOK would warrant; and began modestly with one portrait on wood, which cost \$10. Three of our ministers were afterwards exceedingly well represented by the lithographic art, each of which pictures cost \$20. By this time the new art of photogravure was coming in, and the printers were gradually learning how to put the new style of pictures through the press: and the portraits have been increasing. Twenty eight portraits have appeared from time to time, before this year, not including a group of African helpers, nor the "Union of 1868"; and with this issue—and no doubt in years to come—the proportion will be greatly increased.

We give, this year, the historical chart of the Union Meetings, from the beginning; and it must be accepted as full and perfect. No one else has the same opportunity of making it correct as the Editor; and he has done his best.

To be perfect in all things would make us conceited; and the Editor refers to the back of the title page for some corrections and omissions. One can interline a letter, but one cannot put in an omitted name after the sheets are printed. The particular brethren thus distinguished, will, however, not be likely to be omitted again!

If we thought this preface would be read and noted by everybody, and within time, we would say a good deal about ordering copies for the church-members in good season. A denominational Year Book is something like a savory dish of pancakes; which must be eaten warm! A Year Book twelve months old is simply a book of historical reference; three months old, it has lost much of its freshness and value. Let it be known, therefore, that our YEAR BOOK is issued every year on the first day of September. We note that this preface—the rest of the book is all in type—is written on the very same day of August as last year!

Let the orders from the churches (and it is always best to "vote" a few dollars, to supply each family with a copy) come in at once; and read the reports of the Union, the College and the Societies, within "three months from date!"

WILLIAM WYE SMITH.

ST. CATHARINES, ONT.,  
August 17th, 1898.