

# THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

(NEW SERIES.)

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## EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

READER, have you consecrated yourself to God? He wooed you, loved you, has bought you, gave His son, and prepared the many mansioned home. What can we render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward us? Let us pay our vows unto the Lord, and live to Him only. That will be heaven; otherwise we are on the way to eternal death.

CAN any one read the following without be-  
touched:

NEWCASTLE, Mar. 18, 1886.

SIR:—

I enclose one dollar for my year's subscription from  
April 1st instead of later, as I am advancing in years.  
I shall be on the 26th inst. 88, and as life is uncertain  
I am anxious to arrange my affairs. I find my sight  
failing me. I remain, sir,

Yours respectfully,

— JOHN TOMS.

We have not the privilege of knowing our  
friend personally, but we esteem his faithful-  
ness, and pray that his last days may be his  
best days as he waits the Master's call.

THE Editor is moving, friends will therefore  
excuse the scarcity of jottings. We hope to  
be better both in matter and manner before  
long. Shortcomings we deeply regret, but all  
things work for good if with patience we wait  
for it.

## A SERMON.

Acts ii. 39. "To your children."

How a child's eye brightens at a promise;  
how in happy anticipation it waits for the ful-  
fillment. Never break a promise to a child,  
God give unto us childlike faith as we re-  
ceive his exceeding great and precious promises.  
The Promise. What? Plainly that of v. 17.

The last days, *i.e.* Messiah's days, those then  
dawning when Spirit should be poured out be-  
cause the Christ had come. V. 21 sums up  
the result of this promise, "Shall be saved."  
Ah, salvation, "the joyful sound proclaim."  
Saved from sin, from sorrow, from pain, from  
death. Read some passages which shadow  
forth this great salvation:—

Is. xii. 1-3; lx. 18-22; lxi. 1-3; (comp. Luke  
iv. 17); Rev. xxii. 3-5.

We would now emphasize "to your child-  
ren," "your sons and your daughters shall  
prophesy." Do children—our little ones—  
need this salvation, this promise? for salvation  
implies danger, gospel salvation, sin. Christ  
came not to call the righteous, but sinners to  
repentance; to seek and to save the lost; and  
though a child was taken by Christ himself as  
a type of his true followers, Mat. xviii, 1-6, yet  
if he is their Saviour, they need salvation.  
Indeed the fact that to our children the pro-  
mise of this great salvation is given makes  
plain that they as we have need of it, that in  
them are to be found the beginnings of that  
sin which works misery and brings death. It  
seems hard to look on a child's face, into the  
bright eyes, listen to the ringing laugh, and  
say—sin there. But it is true. The scowl of  
discontent, the frown of rebellion, the angry  
passion so easily roused, these and more make  
plain that the beginnings are there which only  
need time to grow and curse the entire life.

When e.g. boy cries in a pet "I won't play,"  
it is only that spirit in its beginnings seen so  
often in church members. (children of larger  
growth.) "I will leave if I do not get my own  
way." Hence the alienations, the bitternesses  
that curse our life. True, we do not hold a  
child as guilty when it sins as the man or  
woman with greater knowledge, wider experi-  
ence, but the sin is there, just as sure as the  
poison of scarlet fever in one who has caught