

THE
CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

VOL. IX.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1862.

No. 5.

DOES THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELL IN YOU?

An inquiry of this character should be approached with a sense of its great importance. An awe as of eternity may well fill the mind when weighing the evidences of being in the flesh, or in the Spirit. Faithful dealing with souls is required in the presence of a theme so wondrous and thrilling. To sing a lullaby over souls, and rock them to sleep in the cradle of carnal security, were employment meet for devils. There can be no doubt that in the Bible there are two states spoken of in which men are found. Those who are living in a worldly, selfish spirit, neglecting the great salvation, are in the flesh. He that is safe for eternity has the experience of a heart-felt, heart-deep, heart-subduing work,—a work of God—the work of the Holy Spirit. Let us not dare to dishonour God by the abrogation of the necessity of this great work. The Great Teacher has emphatically said—Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. That birth is the opening of a redeemed existence. The waters are sweetened in the spring of regeneration, which are to flow in the stream of life, clear and pure. The indwelling Spirit gives character to the actions of the individual born again. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. An ethereal complexion glows in the face, a heavenly vigour nerves the soul of the child of God. This is the mark of God's flock. The green pastures are beautified by the white fleece of the shepherd's charge. There is the anointing of the Holy One—meet inaugural of kingship and priesthood—we have an unction. Impressed with a divine seal, the claim of God over the soul is attested and proven—a new heart will I give them, and a right spirit will I put within them. Divine fire, kindled on the altar of the heart, is fed by the oil of grace. The dwelling of the Spirit in us, implies the existence of true Christianity in the heart,—“Ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.” “Now, if any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of his.” Baseless is the hope of heaven, cherished without a change of heart, and preparation of our nature for its pure employments. The Spirit's work assumes proportions in this light, demanding an answer to the question, Have you the Spirit? Mystery, written on the gate of the temple of Truth, should fill with awe the earnest seeker, but not prevent exploration in its sacred precincts. The reprobations of unhallowed feet sound harshly in the ear of piety, which ever seeks to obey the injunction, “put off thy shoes from off thy feet; for the place whereon thou standest is holy