

Editorial.

The Canadian Independent.

TORONTO, MAY, 1876.

A FACT FOR IMPATIENT CONTRIBUTORS.

A recent visit to the church in the township of Kincardine, where the Lord has recently poured out His Spirit in so remarkable a manner, has deepened our conviction of the necessity of maintaining our weak and struggling country churches. We gave expression to our views upon this subject in our January issue, and shall not, therefore, repeat what we then said; but the church to which we have just referred is a case so much in point that we must be excused for briefly alluding to it again.

The little church on the 10th concession of Kincardine was organized just twenty years ago, by its late venerable pastor, the Rev. N. McKinnon, with a membership of twelve persons. Its numbers at one time reached twenty-eight, but for several years past have fallen again below twenty. Its little log chapel, and the lot on which it stands—*res angustæ*!—is set down in our statistical table at the modest valuation of \$200; and it has, of course, always been dependent upon the Society for missionary aid, though the amount latterly granted has been very small. Once and again it seemed as if the Committee must drop it, out of consideration from what appeared to be more urgent claims upon them; but a voice from the Master

said, "Destroy it not, for a blessing is in it!" And so it has been nurtured and cared for, as far as we have been able to do so, and our readers have already seen what God hath wrought by it in that remote country settlement.

It is true, indeed, that not much over one-fourth of the two hundred persons believed to have been converted in the revival have united with the Congregational Church, the rest having preferred to connect themselves with the churches which they were previously attending. But the great point is to have brought them to Christ and to salvation; and if that have been gained, the Lord will keep them, and find work for them anywhere, and may, perhaps, make them even more useful among others than among ourselves.

One most noticeable feature of the revival in Kincardine is that it began among the more elderly people of the congregation, in whose hearts the seed of the kingdom had long been sown by the lately deceased pastor. Most of the converts, indeed, had sat under his ministry for longer or shorter periods, so that our brethren who aided in reaping the fields reaped very largely what he had sown. Has our money, then, been spent in vain? Nay, has it not yielded us a hundredfold?

We observe, by the discussion going on in the columns of the *Advance* (Glasgow), that a similar impatience exists among our Scottish brethren in regard to some of their long dependent