

logy, even to apologetics. There is reason to fear that it is all but totally neglected in Canada, and if these remarks lead any to examine its claims, the purpose of their publication will be completely served.

Londesboro.

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INSPIRATION, THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT.

“**C**LEAR your mind of cant, Sir,” said the celebrated Dr. Samuel Johnson to his admiring biographer, Boswell. The sage of Bolt Court said what is easier to say than to do, shown in his own as in the case of many men before and since. Cant is cannot with an added sham ; put “ ing ” to the end of it and it would represent the image of the thing—untrue—feigned—hypocritical—abortive—in a word—no thing—but an imitation.

There is a prevailing opinion, loosely entertained, that cant and canting has mostly if not entirely to do with religious matters. To many a canting hypocrite would mean a long-faced, ostentatious member of the Church—a religious Pharisee with a Judas whine. But it is not strictly accurate. Religion has no monopoly of cant ; the Pharisee is not the exclusive property of the Church. It is found in every age, in every clime. Hypocrisy is indigenous in the soil of the human heart, and is the same in the sinner as in the religious professor.

There is political cant and commercial deception ; literary theft and scientific humbug ; social hypocrisy and sham patriotism ; medical deceit, legal *finesse* and newspaper mendacity, so that “ things are not what they seem.” In every direction, doubtless, the optimistic philosopher would discover “ the soul of good in things evil ” in this element of our common humanity, as in everything else ; yet we must sorrowfully confess that the trail of the serpent is over it.

The father of lies is the legitimate parent of cant wherever it