

# THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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## EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

WE call special attention to the report of the meeting of the Union in the Lower Provinces. We trust that the brethren who visited from the Unions of Ontario and Quebec will yet give their impressions; meantime we desire attention to the fact that the Missionary Societies of the two Unions are again united. This is a most important step, tending to mutual sympathy and earnest co-operation. We rejoice in the issue, and trust that with the increased facilities this age affords for travel, intercommunion between the churches will be frequent and hearty. In the unification of interests referred to, we hail another step in our advance, and feel that we have much additional cause to press on with hope and vigour.

WE would specially call attention to one resolution passed at the meeting, viz., that in relation to THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT. True it is but a monthly, but it is the one means of constant intercourse between our churches. We cordially invite the brethren to aid in filling up its columns, and to render it thus more welcome into every Congregational home, where we trust through the energy of its friends it may yet find its way. We thank our brethren for their expressed confidence in our endeavours, and beg them to aid us in meriting the same.

THE English *Congregationalist* is always welcome to our desk. Among its many excellent articles in the July number, is one on the present state of English Congregationalism. Mr. Morley, whose name is a household word among our English brethren, has suggested that Congregationalism was not holding its own, for whereas it once provided for six per cent. of the population, to-day it provides for but four. The indefatigable secretary of the London Congregational Union, has given abundant reason for distrusting the conclusion

thus arrived at, and the *Congregationalist*, commenting thereon, has drawn attention to several facts, which have their interest for us as for our brethren across the water. Figures can be readily manipulated to suit any theory, witness the unquestioned figures of our national expenditure and income as manipulated by the Minister of Finance or the opposition leader. Hence friends are often misled by figures. But granted a decrease according to figures, which emphatically we do not, is that reason for hanging down one's head? This is a part of what our contemporary says: "Congregationalism has always had a strength in the nation out of proportion to its numerical power. It was so as far back as the Commonwealth, when the influence of the Independent party was greatly in excess of any force they could have brought to the poll in the case of a plebiscite. In its very genius it abhors a compromise, and so acquires the power which invariably belongs to a clear and vigorous assertion of principle even though it be an extreme one. It leavens the thoughts of parties which on profession are most strongly opposed to its principles, a statement which every one familiar with the internal life of our various religious communities must be able to corroborate." We quote these lines to show, by comparison with our chairman's address, that the same discouragements—if discouragements they be—which too often press heavily on timid hearts, are meeting us as they meet our English brethren, of whom and of whose work the world may be justly proud.

UNFORTUNATELY there are men who do not appreciate liberty, as there are men who do not appreciate the Gospel. This says nothing against liberty, but renders the abuse of the blessing more culpable. The Rev. James Wood, who has for some years been pastor of a Congregational church in Leicester, England, has just accepted the pastorate of a Unitarian congregation at Birmingham. With this freedom we are not