

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

THIS number will come into the hands of most of our readers during the merry Christmas days, to a few with the dawning of the "glad New Year." Let the bells ring out their merriest, and the heart beat joyously in tune, as we gather up the memories and hold them all in the bright light of the Christmas fire. The year's night has reached its deepest, the day begins to dawn and the shadows flee. Draw closer round the old hearth-stone, and let the gloom feel the advancing march of the day's great king. It was a true instinct which placed the Christ's birth mid-winter, as the days begin to advance and darkness relax its hold.

"When the night is darkest, He sends the morn,
"When the famine is sorest, the wine and corn."

THE past year has not been without its interest to us. The event of the year to us denominationally has been the new and happy auspices under which our College opened. This really begins our new departure at the right spot. Four students will be ready, D. V., in the spring for settlement, fourteen for summer work. The labourers are gathering, let the churches upgather to the end that they may be sustained.

WE recall our sentence "The Event of the Year." There has been another. The brethren of the Lower Provinces have again united with the brethren of the Upper Provinces in organized missionary work. Our Missionary Society embraces from the Atlantic sea-board on to the practically boundless west, and thus together we advance to possess the land. Distance does not tend to strengthen bonds, nevertheless with the columns of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT and the cheery letters of our nearly ubiquitous superintendent (why not call him *Bishop*?). We do not intend to be strangers, but one host of God's Canadian

army. Already we begin to feel the quickening of this union impact, and still we look with confidence for more.

THE year has had its death roll, what year has not? and the Christmas remembrance will note its vacant seats; but over these vacant chairs the Christmas fact wreathes its aureole, "Christ was born in Bethlehem," and while that fact remains, the resurrection and the life are there also. There *was* a vacant chair in heaven, now filled; we will rejoice and be glad therein.

OUR editorial New Year would be very much brighter were a more lively interest taken in the Magazine, which, though free from present debt, would rejoice in a margin for some improvements. Every family should have a copy. No one dollar would be denominationally better spent. We are glad to believe, as we have been assured, that among the elements of a returning vigour to our different enterprises the columns of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT have had a directing share. Only a conviction that we were in the path of duty has kept us the past three years at our post, and we remain there only till some stronger and better hand will take from our fingers the editorial pen. We have not pleased everybody, sometimes our best friends have not agreed with us; we counted the cost in every instance, and conscious of many shortcomings, with no idea of editorial infallibility, we have kept on our way endeavouring to do our duty. We continue as we began, craving sympathy and co-operation from all, conscious of no enmity, with increasing regard for all, praying that upon the various interests we seek to represent, forward and guard, God may pour the blessings of a truly "HAPPY NEW YEAR."

AN old and long-tried friend of our cause, whose partner in life, now in the presence of