

THE  
**Canadian Independent.**

VOL. XIX.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1872.

No. 6.

CANADA'S GOODLY HERITAGE.\*

A THANKSGIVING SERMON, BY REV. F. H. MARLING.

Psalm xvi 6.—"The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places: yea, I have a goodly heritage."

We are met to-day in the house of God, not merely as individuals, or as families, or as a Christian congregation for their ordinary worship,—but as Canadians, and at the invitation of the Representative of our Sovereign, to give special thanks to the Giver of all good for the mercies He has bestowed upon our nation, and so upon ourselves as members of it.

There have been peculiar favours bestowed on us during this year, which demand such a public and united acknowledgment. But great and important as these are, it were very wrong to limit our thoughts and our thanks to them. Rather let us, on this day of National Thanksgiving, take a wider survey of all God's goodness to us as a people, so manifold and free, that we may rightly appreciate our favoured condition, and give God "the glory due unto His name."

The words of David, which we have chosen as our text, are not merely, "*I dwell in pleasant places, I have a goodly land:*" but "*The lines have fallen unto me,*" &c., "*I have a goodly heritage.*" The first expression evidently refers to the original partition of the land of Canaan by lot—"the whole disposing of which was from the Lord"—among the twelve tribes of the children of Israel, (Joshua xviii: 10, Numb. xxvi: 55,) when every tribe, every family, and every man, had the bounds of their habitations appointed to them by Divine decree, without any choice of their own. There is not so visible an interposition in our affairs at this day, but whether we may have been born in this land, or brought hither in our dependent years, or came from the pressure of necessity, or from our own freest choice, the universal Providence of God has had the determining part in the matter, and we are here because God willed it so.

"There's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will."  
"The Most High divides unto the nations their inheritance, He divides the bounds

\* This sermon was preached at the United Thanksgiving Service in Bond Street Congregational Church, Toronto, on Thursday morning, 14th November, 1872. It is published at the request of a number of those who heard it, at whose expense this issue is enlarged for the purpose. A separate edition has also been published by the "Christian Literature Committee" of the Bond Street Church.