

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

(NEW SERIES.)

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[No. 2.

CONCERNING OURSELF.

DR. WILKES writes: "Let me thank you for the January CANADIAN INDEPENDENT. It is a great improvement; several of the articles are of real excellence."

MR. POWIS writes:—"The CANADIAN INDEPENDENT in its new shape is a handsome magazine. I prefer it to the weekly. If, through liberal support, it can be issued fortnightly, it will leave little to be desired in regard to it. The Sunday School Lessons are very suggestive and good."

REV. R. ROBINSON, of Warton, our old pastor, says: "I congratulate you and your readers." We have had other words of cheer regarding our monthly, which we trust will not be in the end a retrogressive step, but a forward one. We should like a fortnightly, and as we are now established in our present form we would say, "Double our list of paying subscribers, and a fortnightly shall be issued of the size of our present monthly, at the same subscription price."

WE would draw special attention to the Sunday School Lessons. Pastors and churches would materially aid by introducing the magazine into the Sunday School, for we are persuaded no better helps to our International Lesson Series are to be found. Many will recognise the hand; they who do not may be glad to know that the writer is an enthusiastic Sunday School superintendent of twenty years' standing, and an earnest worker in the Congregational body.

THE introduction of the magazine to our schools would do much towards the cultivation of that *esprit de corps* we desiderate, and provide for teachers a safe guide and evangelical instructor.

THERE are more indications of improvement in Irish affairs than seemed likely a short

time ago. The Land Act is making steady progress, and it is now claimed that one-fourth of all the tenant farmers needing relief have received the benefit of its provisions. There is reasonable ground for hope that the whole question will be settled in this way within two years. The principal difficulty at present is the Land League's brutal efforts to overawe honest tenants who are disposed to be law-abiding and orderly in their conduct. John Bright, in an address at Birmingham on Jan. 3rd, traced the Irish difficulties to a long course of misrule. He justified some degree of coercion on the ground of necessity. He thought that much of the discontent arose from misconception or ignorance of English liberality, and that much of the Irish poverty is the result of driving away English capital. He recommended such a degree of liberty as would give security to freedom without destroying it, and condemned the plans of organized conspiracy by Irish Americans.

"In the witty Biglow papers, which are in many instances as wise as they are witty, we have the assurance that 'bad work follows you as long as you live'—

'It comes close after you as hard as sin,
And allus wanting to be done agin.'

The work of this country in Afghanistan was certainly not well done. We did bad work there in 1837, and repeated the same error in our last war. We have in both cases intermeddled with the people, overturned their political and social system, and, after great and irreparable losses on our own side (for Afghan losses have never counted for much in our minds), we have left our ill-done work to follow us till the next time, when we simply repeat the same performance as before. When, therefore, we hear of fresh disturbances in such countries as Afghanistan, which we have been so keen to settle, we feel somewhat un-