

THE CANADA CHRISTIAN MONTHLY.

DECEMBER, 1874.

Editorial.

DEEPER AND HIGHER.

There is hardly any natural object to which the Church of Christ is more frequently compared than to the tree, whether it be oak or palm, vine or olive, fig or cedar. There is one point in the comparison which ought not to be forgotten by us at the present time. There is in many hearts in Canada a deep longing, and in many closets earnest prayer that the Lord should visit the Protestant Church of the Dominion. "so that the hills might be covered with the shadow of it and that the boughs thereof might be like the goodly cedar, stretching from the sea unto the river." In our longing to see the branches grow let us not forget the roots. This is the law of God's kingdom: "Thou didst cause it to *take deep root* and it *filled the land*." The height and width of the healthy tree is always in proportion to its depth and breadth. Let the top of a tree outgrow its roots and the consequence shall be that the first drought would wither it, or the first storm would uproot it. Let our main anxiety be, therefore, that the cause of God would take *deep root*, and the upward, outward growth shall come in its own season.

One of the first things necessary to a deep and enduring work of grace in any land is that its pastors be men that *hold much communion with God*. Men

who live much 't court become courtly in their manners; and ministers who hold much communion with God will carry with them that power, pathos and authority that is commonly called unction, which is of more account in the work ministers have on hand than learning or rhetoric. It was this quality in the Great Master that caused men to say of Him, that He taught as one having authority, and not as the Scribes.

Another thing necessary to a deep and enduring work of grace is that ministers of the gospel be close, careful students of the Bible, clear thinkers, and pungent, pointed applicers of the truth to the conscience. A man may produce excitement, move men to tears, and do also a great deal of good by a superficial study and defective exposition of the Word of God, as did Apollos while yet untutored in the deep things of God; but the real and lasting success of a man's ministry is always in proportion to the degree in which he knows the Word, teaches his flock to know it, to search it for themselves, and to apply it to the ups and downs of life. A remarkable instance of this is the following facts from a recent issue of the "*Liberal Christian*:"—

"We heard a very competent witness say lately that the city of Rochester—of which he was not a citizen—was, in his judgment; the most