

with much of vigour or satisfactory result, when a combatant can only open his mouth once a month, or rather, once in two, as he must wait to hear what his opponent says in the following month, if that opponent be in charge of a monthly; while, if the adversary command a weekly, there is little to be gained in a duel where the other party can fire four shots to your one. We cannot say, therefore, that we regard polemics as a very desirable element in our work. We shall defend Congregationalism best by helping to make it what it ought to be.

In these several departments there is ample scope for the production of a most valuable periodical, which will have a "speciality" of its own, interfering with no other, to be replaced by no other; religious in spirit, ecclesiastical in form; glad to help the individual Christian everywhere, but specially "seeking that it may excel to the edifying of the church."

To realize this large ideal two things are chiefly wanting. It is not one man's work, it can only be accomplished by the help of many. There must be a *large circulation*, to inspire editorial exertions, to increase the size of the Magazine, to provide the choicest material to fill it, and to give it power over the public mind. And there must be earnest *literary coöperation* in contributing facts, thoughts and experiences, ranging under any of the classes of subjects above mentioned. There is ability enough among us, were it but freely put forth, to sustain a Magazine of superior quality, a faithful help-meet to our own Churches, and a voice of power to the country at large.

To accomplish all the work that should be done would require nothing less than a weekly newspaper of ample size. For many reasons, that seems beyond the capabilities of the body at the present time. Let the Magazine be made the most of. It can be improved to any pitch of excellence which its supporters may enable it to aspire after. There has been no room within the present limits for an editor to work in. Our correspondents have written so much and so well, and we have so politely given them the precedence, that for some time past we have almost ceased to hope to find room for a multitude of editorials that have been at our fingers' ends, and for a great body of valuable selections. This very article has waited six months before it could get in!

Such are our thoughts on the *Canadian Independent*. Now what do our good readers think and say? and what will they *do*? The proprietors have now under consideration divers plans for the enlargement and improvement of the magazine. Their object is to widen the scope of its contents, by adding to the record and discussion of denominational movements, more of general religious reading, practical articles on the internal development of church-life, ampler notices of the literature of the day, and other departments of interest. If our friends in every place will but use their best exertions to increase the subscription-list, this will undoubtedly be done. Every family connected with the body ought to receive the magazine. We believe we may say that subscribers may count on having more for their money next year.