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ADDRESS TO OUR READERS.

The farewell of our most valued brother who has vacated the editorial management of the *Independent*, necessitates the preliminary courtesies in keeping with the new order of things. We have sent in our card by issuing the prospectus of the fifth volume; and now, invited to appear before our kind readers, in actual contact with their minds and hearts, it is incumbent on us, to proffer introductory salutations, wishing grace, mercy and peace to all the churches, and to proceed at once with our object. That object is a work which has been given us to do,—work in connection with the cause of the blessed Redeemer,—to maintain the truth in its grand and saving aspect, as it announces salvation through Christ. We do not expect to be called to battle on the field of polemical divinity, but this is an ever present conviction with us, that ceaseless activities are needed in this age to make inroads on the dark domains of error and human enmity to divine things. Every possible agency ought to be skilfully and prayerfully employed to commend the matchless Saviour to perishing men. Brethren in the ministry, glory in the doctrine of the cross. Our people are called to a holy vocation in standing up for Jesus in their lives, in the busy haunts of commerce, in the sweet scenes of domestic life, and in the seclusion of the backwoods. Our Magazine we trust shall have a golden thread interwoven through its pages which shall do honour to Him whom every heart should love and every tongue should praise. In this great feature we pray that our denominational literature may never be afflicted with a faltering, a stammering, or a silent tongue.

As Congregationalists, we rejoice to know that our name is written among the banners of the tribes of Israel. Mingled with the great army of the Christian hosts, the faithful exhibition of Christ will enable us to perform our share of the work of the Lord, yet would we not disown our own colours or reject our own peculiar equipment in that service. Believing that Congregationalism has a mission, our distinctive sentiments and practice must be defended, enforced, and illustrated. The feeling of conscience here is worthy of utterance, the conviction of the mind worthy of propagation. We aim at a Christianity of the type of the New Testament. However much the eye of an opponent may see its defects, and however frequently the heart of a friend may mourn over its misapplication,