

WORD FROM A WANDERER.

DEAR CANADIAN INDEPENDENT :—
There is no mail visitor of mine more welcome than are you. Three reasons occur to me as I write, for this partiality. 1st. You are from the land of my nativity. 2nd. Your articles are all readable. 3rd. You are a good Congregationalist.

This latter peculiarity (novelty I almost wrote) is to me a very strong recommendation. I was particularly pleased with Dr. Wilkes' article "Zeal in and for Congregationalism," in the February number. We need more of it among ministers and laymen. It does me good after reading the N. Y. *Independent*, the *Christian Union*, the *Christian at Work*, and their non-sectarian companions, to read a salty, spicy article on *ism*. I confess to a little sectarian relish at such times. If the article is Episcopacy, Presbyterianism, Methodism, or the denominational food that I am not partial to, I take it as the bilious man eats pickles—the sour tastes good to him. Perhaps I have a depraved taste, but I do become nauseated with the platesfull upon platesfull of sweetness from these charity—and nothing else—proclaimers.

The papers above referred to and others are doing Christ's kingdom excellent service as a whole, but with these we need others no less christian which will consolidate the masses into working orderly divisions. An army may be loyal to a man to the cause for which it is enlisted, and yet inefficient for the want of able sub-officers. We have a commander, the Lord of Hosts, and now we need under Him captains that have not only the charity of Christ, but the creed of a denomination. Positive characters are only fit for leadership, and with positiveness there must be a Scotch or Puritan stubborn stability. The conquest of the world for the Master is something more than a love affair. It is a warfare, and I am just foolish enough to think that denominations as harmonious divisions of the great army, will have to carry it on until the millennium. If I belong to the Congregational wing, I have some good reason for being there. Let us as Congregational ministers, not only be fearless but faithful in advocating the tenets of our polity, and thus establish

our hearers. Two deacons in my church, who were formerly Presbyterians, have done much to ground my faith by antagonism. They sucked in with their mother's milk, Assembly, Synod and Presbytery, but no firmer and truer to their respected and loved church were their parents, than were mine to ours. Many of your readers know something of their life-work at Danville, Que. The Congregational as well as the christian principles by them inculcated, found root, and I trust will bear precious fruit for our loved church.

As I look back to Canada, the home of my boyhood, and think of her deeds, it seems at times that the ministering children of her birth and nurture are more selfish than sacrificing for leaving her. But the field is the world, and there are American heathen as well as Canadian. Canada too, occasionally calls away from the star-spangled country one that she (U. S.) vainly tries to keep. This is right, though the balance may be in favour of the larger country. Reciprocity, ministerial as well as commercial, should be established. I have in mind now one of Montreal's favourites, Rev. Geo. Wells, who was enticed across the line, and he does not get back.

In closing this little chat, intended first merely as a simple acknowledgment of the good work the INDEPENDENT is accomplishing, I wish you and the noble little band of Congregationalists of the Dominion, which you so faithfully represent, all the success due to persistency of effort and consistency of purpose. "God bless my church!" is one petition of my continuous prayer.

H. J. P.

VERMONTVILLE, Mich.,
February 10th, 1874.
Encore.—ED.

A MASSACHUSETTS correspondent is on hand with a Scriptural argument in favour of half-fare passes for ministers—or free passes, for that matter. His text is found in *Exod. vii. 24*—
"Also we certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, Nethinims, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute or custom upon th—*Advance*."