

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

NEW SERIES.)

VOL. IV.]

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1885.

[No. 2.

EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

WILL our many friends remember to forward their subscriptions now due, and do something to extend our circulation. If our list were just doubled, and it ought to be, we would venture a weekly, as our Mission Superintendent suggests, but the present management runs no risk of an unmanageable debt. If subscriptions for a weekly come in as indicated we will issue weekly, or fortnightly, as the number justifies not otherwise.

WILLIAM LINDSAY ALEXANDER has passed away with the old year, and Congregationalism in Britain loses thereby one of its most accomplished scholars and beloved pastors. Born in 1808, he became in 1835 colleague, and eventually successor of Rev. John Cleg-horn, in Edinburgh. The congregation which gathered at St. Augustine Chapel grew to be one of the most influential in that city, and Dr. Alexander a confessed power for good. He succeeded Dr. Wardlaw in the Theological Hall as Professor of Systematic Theology, and when the munificence of Miss Baxter (who, at the ripe age of eighty-four, also passed through the valley during December,) established a principalship in 1878, Dr. Alexander resigned the pastorate for that position, at the urgency of his friends. Dr. Alexander held a prominent position among the Biblical scholars of the day. He was a member of the Revision Company from the beginning. He edited the last edition of "Kitto's Biblical Cyclopædia," was the author of the articles on "Moral Philosophy" and "Scripture Theology" in the eighth edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica." His own works, some of which have been republished in America, are well known to Biblical students, including the Congregational Lecture on "The Connection and Harmony of the Old and New Testaments."

TWELVE months ago the *English Nonconformist and Independent* lowered its price one-third, and somewhat changed its form. It says: "We trust our subscribers have been as well satisfied with the change as ourselves." We would like to say, without endorsing *all* its positions, that for strong, manly, scholarly and Christian journalism, our contemporary has few peers, certainly no superior. It is the true representative of sturdy English independence. *Macte virtute!*

WE call special attention to the statement of the Secretary of our Missionary Society. With God's blessing our work is consolidating and progressing, the opportunity is *now*, and we are being called upon to prove whether we are the men to cover our stations, or whether, because of our failing to meet our engagements, we are to have our vineyard let out to other husbandmen. Unworthy of our heritage most surely shall we be if we do not press in to keep up our means to the call made upon them. To go back now is bankruptcy and spiritual ruin. As our Secretary's statement came to hand, there came from the opposite point of the compass, borne on the breeze, a growl, which it will not be our fault if it is not ignominiously silenced now and for ever. Some small soul has grudged the expense (!) of our Missionary superintendent. Brother, how much of your money is invested in sustaining a man who is doing the work of an Evangelist, Secretary, organizer of churches, and temporary pastor, as well as Missionary Superintendent, at the sacrifice of being away from home eleven months of the year? If any labourer is worthy of his hire surely that man is, and the progressive state of our mission fields bears testimony from God to the wisdom of the Committee's choice. Of course our Superintendent "receives more than some hard-worked country pastor," yes, my growling brother, and country pastors will continue to receive their miserable pittance just so