

(To the Editor of the Canadian Independent.)

DEAR SIR,—You will oblige me by inserting in the forthcoming number of THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT the enclosed letter of the Rev. R. W. Dale, M. A., of Birmingham, England, to *The Advance*, of Chicago, 16th ult. Mr. Dale is well known as the colleague and successor of the Rev. John Angell James, as one of the foremost of English Congregationalists, and as the present Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. He appears to be also the English correspondent of *The Advance*. His magnificent addresses, annual and autumnal, to the English Union have thrilled and delighted Congregationalists throughout the world.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours truly,

J. G. MANLY.

Toronto, January, 1870.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

BY REV. R. W. DALE.

A Remarkable Movement among the Ritualists—Copying from the Methodists—A Quiet Revolution in Calvinistic Opinions.

What can your English correspondent write about in the month of November? There is quite enough happening in England to occupy and to sadden our own thoughts, but very little that can interest readers on the other side of the Atlantic. The “relapsing fever,” which is creating devastation among the poor in London, the distress in all the great towns, which as yet shows hardly any signs of disappearing: the continuance of crimes of violence in Ireland, the treason which is still being talked by the Fenians, threaten to spoil the “merry Christmas” which is coming. Cabinet Councils are being held as usual at this period of the year, two or three times a week—for the discussion, as we suppose, of the Irish Land Bill, the English Education Bill and some other questions of inferior importance, which must come under the attention of Parliament next session. But all these are matters about which there is very little to be said.

A remarkable religious movement, however, is in progress among the Ritualistic clergy in London. Some thirty or forty churches are being thrown open for service every day for ten days, and what the preachers call “a war against sin and Satan” is being carried on with a great deal of vigour and enthusiasm. There are sermons every night—sometimes two in one evening. The style of the preaching is, for the most part, very different from that which has been common in the decorous and dignified Church of England. It is impetuous, vehement and “Methodistic.” The old Tractarians attached great importance to the calmness and sobriety of the religious life developed by the services and traditions of the English Church. The new men believe in excitement, and are now trying, as you would say, “to work up a revival.” All I can say is, “God bless them.” There is irreligion and heathenism enough in London to give plenty of room for all men who want to serve Christ, and even the