

P R E F A C E .

THE readers of the Magazine have doubtless already received their impressions respecting the spirit in which it has been conducted during the past year; and most of them, it is hoped, are disposed to approve its general tenour. But lest there should be any misgivings or false impressions relative to this matter, the Editor takes this opportunity of stating what have been his intentions and desires. It has then been his aim to make the work subservient to the religious improvement of its readers, by presenting to them such views of truth as might conduce to their stability and usefulness in the Christian profession; to unite the Baptist denomination by exhibiting fundamental principles and momentous objects, and avoiding those matters which are adapted to irritate and engender strife; to vindicate the distinguishing tenets of the body, with the firmness that is due to truth coupled with the charity that is due to the pious of every name—"speaking the truth in love;" and finally, to support the *Canada Baptist Missionary Society* in its endeavours to benefit the Province.

Whether the Magazine has been conducted in accordance with the Editor's aim, must be left to the judgment of its readers. Approval cannot be expected from all; but it is hoped that none can justly complain of unprovoked rebukes or wanton personal abuse, such as too often betray bad temper and ill breeding. Very gratifying assurances have been received from various quarters, that the periodical is increasingly acceptable to intelligent Baptists, and answers in some good degree the purposes for which it is published. And in these assurances the Editor finds his reward for the time and toil he has gratuitously devoted to the work.

The Editor feels himself greatly indebted to the kind friends, whose co-operation has at once lightened his labours and given more value to the Magazine. He hopes still to be favored with the unremitting assistance of these and other brethren; so that he may always have a good supply of original contributions on various important and useful topics, and also of religious intelligence showing either the successes or necessities of the cause in this land. All well-wishers to the periodical are also urgently requested to use their personal influence to increase its circulation, that the Society to which it belongs may suffer no loss in consequence of maintaining this medium of religious instruction and missionary intelligence.

In conclusion, the Editor would pray in behalf of all the churches and brethren—"Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us, yea the work of our hands establish thou it."

B. DAVIES.

Montreal, May 25, 1841.