

THE

Canadian Independent Magazine.

VOL. V.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1858.

No. 4.

THE DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE INSTITUTE.

The notice in our September number of the resolution passed at the late annual meeting of Subscribers to the Theological Institute,—“that the various Churches be recommended to make the *Second Sabbath in October* a day of special prayer for the Institute;”—has we trust met with general attention from the brethren and secured those arrangements which when wrought out will prove a means of spiritual growth in the Churches themselves and of enlarged blessing on the important work specially pleaded for. In our view there is something peculiarly pleasing in such solemn appeals at the throne of grace. The interest which we should feel in our school of the Prophets ought to be deep and devotional. Prosperity there will ultimately work out a wide-spread and heavenly influence in the land; perversity there unheeded and unchecked, would yield bitter fruits. We regard the training of holy men for the work of the ministry, as of the utmost consequence to the cause of Christ; so far as our agencies are concerned this lies at the foundation. Hence there is much that strikes us, as beautiful in this consecration of a session, by the prayers of the churches. We begin with acknowledgment of God; the eye is fixed on Him from whom our help cometh. As of old the first fruits were brought to God, this is the dedication of our Institute, in all its interests, to Him whose eyes are open from the beginning of the year to the end of it. It is also the application of a power for good the full extent of which is beyond our calculation. Faith opens the hand to receive, and God is accustomed to fill the hand that is held out. We have no hesitation therefore in regarding prayer, as of vital importance in securing the ends intended; drawing down from heaven that blessing without which we labour in vain, and spend our strength for nought.

We plead for the Institute, that it may possess a stronghold on the affection of the Churches. Isolation to it would prove disastrous and destructive. There can be no falling back on Endowments or Parliamentary grants; the first are not possessed, the latter are not wanted. The Christian willingness that consecrates to the Lord, the silver and the gold is the source of supply. In whose hands are the hearts of Men? Who maketh the heart soft? The Lord will provide. In men too far more than in money, is the strong hand required to work for us. It is not an Institution to make ministers. God alone can make a minister. The excellent John Newton has said:—