

PREFACE TO VOLUME XIII.

Another volume of the Magazine having now been completed, it devolves upon the Editor to sum up the year's proceedings in a few words that may apply to the twelve monthly numbers as a whole.

The size of our regular issues has been enlarged during the past year to 40 pages, besides which 24 extra were furnished to subscribers in July and 8 in October, so that the present volume forms a goodly octavo of 512 pages, over 100 more than were given for the same price in each of the preceding eight years.

It may be interesting to our friends to know that of these 512 pages, 147 (more than one fourth) have been written by the editor, and 241 (almost one-half) by various contributors, leaving but 124 (scarcely one-fourth) to have been selected from books or periodicals. Three-fourths of original matter is a very large proportion for a Canadian religious journal to furnish, especially as the whole of it is gratuitous. No less than sixty writers have enriched our pages with original articles, letters, poetry, or news, in addition to sixteen who have sent "official" communications.

Our most hearty thanks are offered to all these valued *collaborateurs*, with whom our relations have been so pleasant. We have seldom had occasion to decline papers that have been sent for publication, and writers have placed their productions in our hands in such a spirit of confidence, that the necessary work of revision and abridgement has been rendered comparatively easy.

Having so constant a plethora of other contributions, we have not been able to avail ourselves so frequently as we should otherwise have been glad to do, of that "special co-operation" promised by Rev. W. F. Clarke. He has however, supplied us with several valuable articles, which have added much to the interest of the magazine.

It has gone far to compensate us for our monthly task, which has required far more time and thought than the inexperienced would imagine, to hear from so many quarters—from pastors and officers of churches and other subscribers, and from our contemporaries in the Provinces, the United States and Great Britain—that the INDEPENDENT has been so warmly appreciated by its various readers.

The enterprise of the proprietors, in enlarging the magazine, has not been responded to as fully as we expected, and had a right to expect, in the increase of subscribers. Still, it is a cheering fact that the increase is very much larger than for several years past, and that remittances have been more promptly made. All who are concerned in this undertaking are deeply indebted to the Publisher for the carefulness, accuracy and zeal with which he discharges his important duties.

The Annual Meeting of the "Canadian Independent Publishing Company" will be held in a few days hence, but too late for us to announce, at present, any arrangements for the next volume. The past, however, encourages the hope that the magazine will be vigorously sustained, and become more and more effective in its important work.

F. H. M.

Toronto, May 22, 1867.