

# PRESBYTERIANISM IN CANADA.

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NO ONE, who is familiar with that book which we continue to acknowledge as the rule of life, can have failed to observe how constantly we are warned against judging by appearances. The word of God teaches by declaration and example that, in judging of character, of the effects of conduct, of method and results, of events and their consequences, of preparations and their success, of individuals and their future, of nations and their destiny, we are to proceed further and dive deeper. There is an inner world which we do not see, where there are powers at work which we do not know, and which the Ruler of all things employs to accomplish His will. But it ought to please those who complain of a want of harmony between the will of God, as interpreted by scripture, and the works of God, as interpreted by reason, that this is also a primary lesson in philosophy; whose business it is to enquire by phenomena into realities,—to distinguish between the changeable and the unchangeable—between the real and the apparent—and so ascertain those general laws which constitute that revelation which the priests of science unfold to the world. [1]

In contemplating the spectacle of a great church in a great country, we should be careful to abide by this rule. It is natural for a mind, moved by the view of a great country like Canada, to swell with some vanity, and to expatiate upon vast geographical limits, and upon a region that possesses all that distinguishes the fairest portions of the earth, together with peculiar features of its own; where various nationalities and churches, in freedom and toleration, are building up a nation diverse from all nations, and a church diverse from all churches. Inflamed with the spectacle, it is natural for us to dwell upon it. And hence we are likely to have much of that cloud-scenery which mimics the