

## Editorial.

### The Canadian Independent.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1875.

#### THE UNION MEETINGS.

The approaching meeting of the Congregational Union, with its affiliated Societies, in Hamilton, is being looked forward to with much interest, and will, no doubt, prove a season of healthy stimulus and great spiritual benefit to all who attend. Seven years have passed since last we assembled with the church in that city, and many have been the changes, both in the church and the constituency of the Union, which have since occurred. The pastor, Mr. Pullar, who presided at our opening session, and led us in prayer so tenderly on behalf of the family of our lately deceased Chairman, Mr. Climie, has himself departed; as well as a number of other honoured fathers and brethren whose names will be missed from our roll-call, and who have been more recently translated from the toils and conflicts of earth to the rest and rewards of heaven. A new pastor will be there to welcome us, however, who, though less widely known to the denomination, worthily fills the vacated pulpit, and is fast building up a strong and vigorous church. Zion has had to cry, "The place is too straight for me," and the Union will be gratified to meet with them in a much enlarged and improved place of worship, and with the *entente cordiale* between them, unhappily some-

what disturbed by the discussions at their last meeting,—entirely restored.

These annual reunions are always occasions of great interest and enjoyment. The meeting with brethren from whom we are sundered all the rest of the year; the annual exhibit of all our denominational affairs and institutions; the reading and discussion of papers on matters of common or special interest; the social and religious gatherings; and the "good time generally," which we look for in connection with the Union meetings, make us long for their return. Those of the present year, we are sure, will prove no exception to the general rule.

We are not aware that we are to be favoured with the presence of any distinguished British or American delegate, as on some previous occasions. If any come we shall accord to them, as usual, a right royal Canadian welcome. But in the absence of any such expectation, let us look the more prayerfully and expectantly for the manifested presence of the Master. Many of our churches have been signally blessed during the past winter. Their pastors will be with us and an opportunity will doubtless be afforded them to tell us what great things the Lord hath done for them, and their people. And unless we mistake, the coming meeting will be characterized by a spirit of hopefulness, and of fresh and joyous consecration to the work of the Lord, which has rarely been witnessed among us. It remains for every