

of the power of true religion. A spiritual struggle, grand in its conduct, and victorious in its issue, was maintained by these heroes. The freedom which we enjoy has, to a great extent, been purchased through their toil and faithfulness.

“The memory of the just is blessed,” and therefore we have hailed the intelligence of every honest and earnest effort to commemorate the noble deeds of the Nonconformists of 1662. Two hundred years have not served to wear out the grand impression they made on behalf of truths which are eternal. No rust bedims their escutcheon. No infamy covers their graves. They are the living men of a former age whose sufferings yet speak on earth; and now in heaven they have their reward. Though we live in a colony remote from the sphere of their actions, still their influence on us is near enough, and strong enough, to move us deeply. Our descent from them in mental and spiritual manhood we judge direct enough and close enough to thank God for such an ancestry. Ecclesiastical relationships bind them and us together.

With these impressions we trust that the Bi-centenary commemoration throughout the Congregational Churches of Canada will be effective; and that a generous spirit will guide their deliberations and contributions. Let it be asserted throughout all the land, that the conscience of a believer is subject to God alone; neither councils, nor synods, nor assemblies, nor conferences, nor parliaments can come between the soul and God. Let it be proclaimed from all our pulpits that—Honesty in religion dares the approach of the worshipper to the altar of God with a lie in his right hand. Let it be engraven on every heart, that sacrifice for Christ, shall be found unto praise, and honor, and glory at His appearing.

RAIN FROM HEAVEN.

A time of protracted drought, followed by copious and refreshing showers, brings before us lessons which we ought not to forget. There is a tendency to take the kind gifts of God's providence as matters of course. Manna fell around the camp of Israel so regularly and so plentifully, that instead of gratitude filling every soul, a spirit of murmuring and rebellion seized the people; and may not a kindred mind be cherished when God continues to favour a people with undeserved mercies? To rebuke a growing forgetfulness of our dependence on God Almighty, His wisdom may see fit to call for famine on a land, or His mercy may plead for the display of His hand only to point the discerning eye of man to the full strength lodged in that hand to slay, remove, or withhold our comforts. We feel sure that during the long continued drought of this spring, and early summer, many pious minds have been led to contemplate the Divine character through the aspect of the season. When the heavens above have been as brass, and the earth beneath as iron, many prayers have gone up for the interposition of Him who giveth rain from Heaven and fruitful seasons. On the other hand, the ever open ear of God has heard enough of complaining and fretfulness. Nevertheless, our Father in Heaven is perfect, for he sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. The present harvest prospect is, therefore, such as calls for gratitude