

# THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

(NEW SERIES.)

Vol. IV.]

TORONTO, DECEMBER 1, 1885.

[No. 15.]

## EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

THIS will be the last issue of THE INDEPENDENT from the publishing house which has served us faithfully and long. We confess regret in severing our relation with Mr. C. Blackett Robinson and his obliging employes. Indeed, our business relations have grown to friendship which we rejoice to hold permanently. Nor do we ask a better office for general punctuality and attention. Our labour has been indeed light by attention there. Why then any change? Simply this. Mr. Robinson is our printer, and cannot be our agent. He has his own publications to look after, and is precluded from materially extending ours by active canvass. From Mr. Wm. Revel, the secretary of the Northern Church, and Mr. C. A. Hodgetts, one of the active young men of the same fellowship, valuable business aid has been generously and gratuitously tendered, but both gentlemen have their regular duties, and are not in the line of magazine canvass; yet with ourself they feel very much might be done in extending the circulation of the magazine, and the raising of it to the rank of a fortnightly. Mr. William R. Climie, son of the late Rev. J. Climie, an active and ardent member of one of our churches, and an enthusiastic, broad-minded Congregationalist, edits and prints a local paper, and has undertaken for the Publishing Company to print this paper and seek to extend the circulation, and the directors have resolved to place the printing and business management in his hands, assured of gaining thereby hearty co-operation. The January number, therefore, will be issued from the press of Mr. W. R. Climie, Bowmanville, to whom all correspondence regarding advertisements, subscriptions, and business must be directed. (Until December 31 all subscriptions to be sent to Business Manager, Box 2,648, Toronto; afterward as above directed.) The editorship remains as before, and all exchanges, books for

review, articles or notices for insertion, in short, all editorial correspondence, will be directed as before to "Editor, CANADIAN INDEPENDENT, Box 2,648, Toronto." Friends will save much trouble and delay by paying strict attention to these simple directions.

A MOST wise and timely article appears in the November number of the English *Congregationalist*, from the pen of Mr. Eustace R. Conder, on "The Freedom of the Pulpit, and its Limits." Mr. Conder draws attention, first, to the important fact that in a denomination which possesses no organized authority to call men to account, and which leaves individual churches free, if unity of action and oneness of sympathy is to prevail there must be "common sentiments and convictions." Are there any common sentiments and convictions among Congregationalists which in honour give limits to the freedom of their pulpits? Mr. Conder believes that there are such limits, and indicates them; with all our heart we follow him therein.

The question is asked, "Is the preacher a poet or an instructor?" In other words, is the pulpit a place for airing an individual's special opinions or propounding theories? Or has it a message to deliver? Is the preacher one who gives reins to his imagination, furnishing a type for other people's faith, or an authorized proclaimer of a gospel? Put in this light, there can be no hesitation in replying. In the New Testament, confessedly the basis of Christian teaching, "truth is everywhere presented not as something to be speculated about, debated, sought after and slowly evolved, but as something distinctly announced, divinely revealed. It is a message, a doctrine, the word of glad tidings, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him. The preacher is not a poet or a thinker, but a messenger, a herald, an ambassador, charged with terms of peace from God to all