

friends wish to correspond with one another, discussing at length and freely, questions of common concern. They would find no place for such exchange of thought, unless it were provided here. To them, therefore, we give ample room and verge enough.—It has added greatly to the interest of the magazine this year, that we have had letters from our recent English visitors. On us also they must largely depend for information on affairs in British North America.—Another aim ever kept before us, is, to inform our friends of the movements of the sister-churches in Britain and America, of which also they might read but little unless they read it here. We think it right to give greater prominence to movements in the mother country, not only because our roots are there, but because while some of our friends subscribe to American religious papers, very few read the more costly British journals—worth, however, all their cost.—It is a favourite idea with us, though one which we have found ourselves too much circumscribed for space to realise in practice, that the magazine should be used extensively for the internal development of our polity, by giving suggestions and illustrations in relation to every part of the churches' life and work—their worship, labours, fellowship, discipline, schools, missions, temporalities—in a word, their entire organisation and working. These questions are but little understood by many of our members; on some points there are different views, that might be compared with advantage; and more disaster befalls us from ignorance and perversity in reference to practical details, than from any other cause.—There are, moreover, various public questions on which those who hold such views as ours, have a testimony to deliver to their brethren and to the country, for which free and full utterance can hardly be found except in our own magazine. The question of the relations between the church and the state is continually cropping up in various forms, and is by no means disposed of. Especially in relation to public education, we need to have a trumpet through which we can give a certain sound.—There is a wide field open in reporting upon the multitudinous and multifarious productions of the modern press, which should here pass under discriminating review. Our friends ought to learn what is published from month to month, and of what sort it is.—We have been enabled (in "Before the Loyalists") to deal somewhat fully with the history of the development, through much persecution, of those principles of religious liberty, of doctrinal faith, and of church order, which distinguish our denomination, and of the churches founded thereupon. Such narrations are full of interest and instruction: Holy writ says, "Look to the rock from whence ye were hewn"—"The glory of children are their fathers."—It is sometimes necessary, not only to expound as truths, derived from God's word, those tenets and practices on which we differ from other christians, but to defend them and ourselves from misrepresentation and attack. We must confess, however, that though this must be done when "necessity is laid upon us," it is not a work we love. Nor can any controversy be carried on