

# Editorial.

## The Canadian Independent.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1876.

### THE VACANT CHAIR.

The Rev. John Wood, the only authorized Editor of this magazine, has vacated the editorial chair, which he so ably fills, for his usual holidays. Readers will understand, therefore, that he is in no way responsible for anything that appears in this number, as he has not even suggested a topic or a thought, aside from his own Missionary Report, and an article from his pen on "Misquoted Texts." He will have his quill mended in time for the next number. We also crave leniency with regard to typographical and other errors, for we have been so intensely interested in our Editorials that we have forgotten to look for blunders.

### FIVE YEARS.

Retrospection, or a looking backward to the past, is a habit in which we all indulge in many ways. It often gives us occasion for devout thankfulness; sometimes it causes deep sorrow; but in nearly all cases it is productive of good. Let us for a moment take a glance back from a denominational point of view, bringing the horizon down to the boundaries of our Union, and confining our thoughts to the facts of five years.

Taking our statistical returns for 1871

and 1876 as our guide, we learn that at the first date our churches numbered eighty-one, and now ninety-five, being an increase of fourteen. These churches show in these respective years a membership of 5,052 and 5,774, an increase of 722. In 1871 our Sunday School scholars numbered 5,633; now we have 7,325, an addition of 1,692.

Five years ago our collections for local church objects amounted to \$55,069; last year they were \$86,491, giving an increase of \$31,422; the collections for denominational objects in 1871 counted \$5,777, and for last year \$9,778, an advance of \$4,001. Adding to these the collections for other religious objects, we have the following as the grand total in each year, viz: - 1871, \$70,447; in 1876, \$103,308, giving a grand increase of \$32,861. In 1871 our parsonages numbered 16, now we have 21, an addition of 5; while the value of our church property, which then amounted to \$286,852, is now \$400,160, an increase of \$113,308.

To recapitulate. During the past five years there has been an increase of 14 churches, 5 parsonages, 722 members, and 1,692 scholars. The financial increase has been \$31,422 for local church objects, \$4,001 for denominational objects, and a total advance in the annual income of the denomination of \$32,861, and the increased value of our church property amounts to \$113,308.

It is said figures are stubborn facts, and these facts speak for themselves.