

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

LOOK AT YOUR LABELS. This is the ninth issue of the year, and we have not received more than half the subscriptions. If the date on your label is passed, as 1 July, '82, you owe a year's subscription; if 1 July, '81, you owe two years, and so on. *REMIT NOW.*

EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

AT the annual meeting of the Canada Congregational Missionary Society, held in Brantford last June, that corporation instructed its Executive Committee to appoint a Superintendent of Missions. Since then a meeting of the Executive Committee has been held in Toronto, at which it was resolved to offer this office to the Rev. Thomas Hall, pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Kingston. After due consideration Mr. Hall has accepted the appointment, his church having released him from his pastorate. Mr. Hall has qualifications for the work to which he has been called, a thorough knowledge of the duties of the position, vigour and earnestness and enthusiasm. In Newfoundland, prior to his coming here, he did important missionary service, which in great measure pointed to him for the performance of the special labour upon which he will now enter. This new departure on an old line is of great importance, and means greater earnestness on the part of our Churches in sustaining the work of Christ through our denomination. Circulars have been issued to pastors and individuals urging special efforts, to the end that our general funds may not suffer thereby, which to our mind means that men should be unselfish and really believe that God has a work to do through the means wherewith He hath blessed them. Let pastors and churches also prepare to welcome practically Mr. Hall's visits among them.

A CORRESPONDENT, in the *Advance*, gives

some items from the Year Book of the American Congregational Churches, which should call forth earnest inquiry if they indicate, as they seem, a want of aggressive work in the Churches reporting therein:

"The first fact is a total net loss in membership for the year 1881 of 2,635, notwithstanding the rapid increase of population, although this is partly explained by the dropping of fifty-one Welsh churches, and other changes in Pennsylvania. Another significant fact is, in Connecticut 119 churches out of 297 did not receive a single member on profession of faith; in Illinois, seventy-six; in Indiana, nineteen churches out of thirty-one; in Iowa, eighty-three. In Maine but thirty-three churches out of 238 received more than three members on profession. In Massachusetts, 180 churches made no additions by profession, and 155 added from one to three. In Michigan, 106 churches received none on profession; in New Hampshire, 108; in New York, ninety-five; in Ohio, seventy-three; in Vermont, eighty-nine. Another frowning fact is the large number of absentees reported by the churches. When Dr. Deems said that there were enough people in New York city with church letters in their pockets to make a dozen large churches, the religious public opened its eyes wide. Congregationalists ought to open their eyes still wider when they learn that the number of absent members for all our churches is equal to our entire membership in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Oregon. Not all these absent members are idle or lost to the cause, but it is very easy to see from the comparison made how much it would mean if all these wanderers were to fix their habitation and go to work for the Lord. They would be a mighty host in themselves."

These figures are not pleasant to contemplate, but they may teach us profitable lessons. We remember hearing of a good Scotch wife who was not sure of the new minister that had come among them; and to make sure, when he paid his first pastoral visit to her