

P R E F A C E .

However imperfectly the work of another year has been performed in connection with our denominational periodical, it may not be out of place to state, that the aim has ever been, conscientiously to advance the objects of Congregationalism in Canada, linked however with the highest and gravest consideration of the general interests of the Redeemer's kingdom.

Periodical literature is a department of service for Christ which we feel persuaded it would be impolitic and unwise to neglect. To impress the public mind, and to leave traces in future ages of the principles of the New Testament as having operated in the formation of these rising countries in British North America, demand the vigorous and faithful use of the Press. Congregationalists in Canada, and their coadjutors in the neighbouring Provinces cannot afford to be unrepresented. For the diffusion of information, for the defence of principles, and to spread the great and glorious truths of the everlasting gospel, an agency like that presented by the *Canadian Independent* is valuable and indispensable. Is it then too much to ask a zealous co-operation in aiming at a decided success? Could our Magazine not be borne by the flowing tide of your support and prayerful interest on to a position of power and influence?

Amid the care and responsibility which our position entails, two features of the year's work have been especially pleasing to ourselves. One, the embellishment of our pages by the life-like portrait of the honoured Professor of our Theological Institute;—and may the churches never fail to possess a succession of true and noble men, worthy of being thus had in remembrance and honour. The other, the frequent call to record intelligence of the progress of the great work of God in these revived and favoured times; a satisfaction which would become intensified a hundred degrees had we to declare such things as wrought among ourselves.

Bowmanville, May, 1860.