

tional efforts and philanthropic schemes, and gives an impulse to all that is lovely and good. Blot out the direct and indirect aid of our members to the humane institutions of our land, and to all enterprizes that have a reformatory and elevating power, and a vast beneficent agency would disappear." (*Princeton Review.*) Our strength is not to be gauged by our wealth or our numbers, but by our pure principles, finding expression in earnest zeal and self-denying effort. A small army of brave veterans under the command of a skilful leader can do more service in the day of battle than millions of ill-disciplined and demoralized slaves or mercenaries.

Within the bounds of our Synod there is at least one denomination—the Roman Catholic—more numerous than our own. But there is probably no Church that is more wealthy, or better educated than ours. We have the means of doing good; and we have the opportunity. God's call is loud and clear, and He awaits our response.—Our young men are as talented and enterprising as any in the world; in this element we are rich; what is required is that a due proportion of our young men be sanctified and set apart to the immediate service of the Lord. The wealth of our people is increasing year by year; what is needed is that the disposition to devote this wealth to the cause of Christ should increase in proportion. Numbers and wealth, without true life, will but hasten the death and destruction of a Church.

The Presbyterian organization which we inherit is an element of strength, which we should diligently utilize. We are one body, from St. John's to Gaspé, from Prince Edward Island to Bermuda. If one member suffers all suffer. If one congregation is in difficulties, the resources of a hundred sister congregations are available for its help. This is our theory; it is scriptural and reasonable. Would that it were reduced to practice! Our Church is free; it not only does not oppress the Lord's people, but it leaves no room for oppression. Ministers and Elders, elected by the people, are over the people in the Lord. Sessions and Presbyteries and Synods are available

for rectifying whatever is wrong. It is impossible to over-estimate the strength and the value of this truly scriptural system if loyally carried out. Be it ours to do justice to it in the eyes of other Churches, and of the world.

Our Church has inherited a precious heirloom in the Confession of Faith and Catechisms which she holds forth as hers. Our creed is pure, positive, full; expressed in language which is easily understood. It has stood the rude fires of persecution and been refined in the fire like gold seven times tried. It was the Creed of the Reformers and the Puritans and the Covenanters. It was the Creed whose adherents revolutionized the politics of Europe and America, by establishing order and liberty on the ruins of arbitrary power. It has been the fiercest foe of superstition on the one hand, and of infidelity and scepticism on the other. Its fountain is God's Word; step by step, from first to last, it grows out of the Bible and breathes the Bible spirit. It makes God all in all, and never detracts from His sovereignty. Proclaiming a free Gospel, it acknowledges God's free favour and sovereign will and mercy as the source of the Gospel offer. "It is suited to the present as well as to the past, to all classes and conditions of humanity, and with it the herald of the cross has the fullest liberty to set forth the law in all its strictness, purity and force, the Gospel in all its divine amplitude and richness, and to build the whole fabric of doctrine and duty, of faith and practice, upon Christ the great corner stone."

This creed, this system we have committed to our care as a Church. It is a source of great strength, and in dealing with it we may feel the honour of being successors to the mighty men of other days. If Presbyterianism becomes a dead and shrivelled thing in our bounds, on us will rest the heavy blame. If Puritanism and Calvinism lose their vigour, if they become formal, worldly, narrow, ours shall be the bitter loss and the indelible disgrace. Presbyterianism, Calvinism, Puritanism are valuable only so long as they contain and convey to men a living Gospel—the Bible truth fitted for the occasion. Divorced from