

PREFACE AND DEDICATION.

We dedicate this first volume of the "Canadian Presbyterian" to our wide circle of subscribers. They have been sufficiently numerous to enable us to carry on the Magazine with a measure of success, and we thank them for the interest they have taken in our labours on behalf of the Church to which we belong, and of the general interests of religion in this Province. We are happy to say that our readers are connected with all sections of the Christian Church; and they are our witnesses that while we have consistently upheld the polity and doctrine of our own denomination, we have yet in no instances violated the amenities of christian discipleship. That we have differed from brethren whom we esteem, we are aware, but in this we are not conscious of having given offence to the most sensitive. If our speech has sometimes been seasoned with salt, we trust that it has at no time been devoid of grace. Our desire has been to embellish our "little book" with the charms of literary ability, good temper and candour. If in these aims we have not been altogether successful, we yet flatter ourselves that we have not fallen below mediocrity.

What we professed in our prospectus we have faithfully carried out. A vehicle of literary intercourse has been provided for thinking men in our Church. Polemical disputes we have not courted, but neither have we shrunk from the manly defence of our faith. The narrow pride of sectarianism we have not countenanced, but have advocated a generous co-operation with all who hold the "Hearl," and an incorporate union with Churches to which we are most nearly related. To public education we have given some attention; against the errors of Romanism we have lifted a testimony; with entire freedom from official constraint we have given expression to our sincere convictions of truth. We have not neglected literary reviews and criticism. To some this department of the Magazine may not be very interesting, but by many we have reason to believe our notices of books have been highly prized. A knowledge of the current religious literature is essential to every intelligent christian; and under this impression our endeavour has been to direct attention to the scholarly productions of masters in literature, to point out the excellencies and blemishes both of matter and style. We have, therefore, no apology to offer for the space which this department occupies in the "Presbyter," deeming it essential to its character as a literary Magazine.