

terprise ; but when a periodical appears on the scene claiming to speak for the whole denomination, those whose mouthpiece it undertakes to be may very properly have something to say about it. The publishers of the *Canadian Advance* announce by circular : "Our object is to make it a worthy and acceptable organ of the Congregationalists of Canada." In the first number, an article headed, "To Our Readers," informs them that the new journal will publish Rev. Dr. Wild's sermons, engage in broad, unsectarian, and undenominational treatment of current matters of a religious and ethical nature, and "*in addition*, will be conducted in the interests of the Congregational denomination of Canada." It is added, "The editors realize that heretofore this influential body of Christians has not been as adequately represented through the press as their principles and numbers demand." All this plainly indicates that the new journal wishes to be regarded as occupying an organic and representative position.

Already there is a journal, now in the thirty-second year of its age, which occupies that very position by virtue of the suffrages and endorsement of the denomination. It has fought the hard battle for existence very bravely, been carried on in the face of many difficulties, had a large amount of unpaid labour expended on it, and has not yet attained the vantage-ground of self-support. Rivalry will not help, it and plainly is not intended to do so. The new journal assumes the *role* of the cuckoo, and aims to get possession of the hedge-sparrow's nest. That is the plain English of it.

Now it is very well known that I do not in all respects admire the course taken by THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT, and have on various occasions joined issue with it, but I nevertheless feel there is a loyalty of support justly due to it, and that we are *in honour bound* to sustain the periodical which has for so many years chronicled our struggles, and been the medium of communication between our churches. I would have hailed with great joy a vigorous effort to make THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT a weekly, and by adding some new departments and attractive features bid for a wider patronage, but I cannot repress a feeling of indignation and resentment at the attempt now being made, coolly and completely to supersede it.

I have no axe to grind, no wires to pull, no favours to ask, no frowns to dread. There is a question of justice, right, manly honour and denominational fealty at stake, and I, for one, will not mince matters. As a private journalistic enterprise, the *Canadian Advance* is at perfect liberty to advocate all the Congregationalism it pleases—the more the better—truth is its own witness ; but when even a secular lawyer offers to take charge of a case, the client, though a prisoner at the bar, is al-

lowed to have something to say on the subject, and if he objects to his case being put into certain hands, the objection is respected. I cannot but think that, in this outspoken communication I voice the convictions and feelings of the great bulk of Canadian Congregationalists ; and if they do not show their concurrence in any other way, I hope they will do it by making a grand rally in support of THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT. If some of those brethren who have done so nobly in providing for high-class education of the Congregational ministry through the College would put two or three thousand dollars into the education of the membership through THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT by making a weekly of it, and introducing some new departments which might make it attractive and valuable to the general public, they would—well—be acting like their worthy selves !

WILLIAM F. CLARKE.

Guelph, November 5, 1887.

[No one has more right to be heard on the claims of THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT than the writer of the above, for he is its father, and by him it was "carried on in the face of many difficulties, and had a large amount of unpaid labour expended on it." We have been compelled to leave out a portion of the letter, but as it stands the statement of the case remains clear, concise and practical. Apart from this letter, we had no intention of alluding to the matter ; the friends who have launched the *Advance* have a perfect right to do so if they please, the risk is their own, and as to their assumption of representing the body, that will be estimated at its value. Our position is this : If the churches desire THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT to become a weekly, all that they have to do is to indicate it by a radical increase to the subscription list. We may be content to labour in the future as in the past, without fee or reward, but we are not willing that in addition we should have to pay the printer's bills out of our own pocket.]

OUR INDIAN MISSION.

BY CHARLES E. BALTON.

According to appointment, Mr. Hall and myself, on the 2nd inst., paid a visit to the Indians at French Bay. As the band has voted \$50 towards repairing the church building, which is now being done, we found the Indians assembled in the school house, but a few rods distant from the church. After devotional services, we proceeded to thoroughly examine the affairs of the church. The people desired to have their teacher ordained, a step which I did not deem advisable before I was on the ground. After I had become acquainted with the state of affairs, I at once saw the necessity of ordination. Before we would agree to ordain, finances had to be considered. The