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PREFACE.

In the Prospectus of the CANADA CHRISTIAN MONTHLY published in 1878 the Editor in assuming his duties, said:—

“In carrying on this Magazine I will try, as much as possible, to keep always in view the exaltation of the Lord Jesus Christ, in all His offices, to commend his gospel as a religion that satisfies the intellect, the affections, and the conscience of men, and to urge on all to be openly, actively, and consistently His disciples. That men come short in realizing their plans, we all painfully know, but it is well for the Editor, like the Sculptor, to work with his model constantly in view.”

In closing the eighth Volume of the Magazine at the end of 1878, the Editor feels thus far satisfied that he has honestly endeavored, as a labour of love, to follow the ideal he set before himself in 1873. That he has come short no one knows better than he does. His editorial duties fell on hours he snatched from rest, and often from sleep, after performing the pastoral duties of a congregation where three sermons a day are preached, and where the usual routine of visiting over a wide district, of weekly and monthly meetings, along with care for the sick, and for Mission stations, devolve on the pastor.

The same difficulty that embarrassed the Editor—want of time—has also been felt by the Publisher. In a note received from him the other day, he says:—“I think if I had time to devote to working up the circulation of the CHRISTIAN MONTHLY something might be done in that direction; but I have had no time in the past, and will have less in the future, to give to anything outside the ‘Presbyterian’ and the general work.”

In these circumstances, with the consent of the Publishers, it is quite possible that the CHRISTIAN MONTHLY may be amalgamated (to the strengthening of both) with the Boston CHRISTIAN, which has been desirous of a union, and which (with the exception of a difference of view in regard to the pre-millennial advent) covers very much the same ground with our own MONTHLY. If this union takes place the writer may hope to have an opportunity from month to month of addressing his old circle of readers.

It has been a great pleasure during these five or six years of editorial work to have received so many kind words. These kind words, with the consciousness that he was using, over a circle of some 8,000 or 10,000 readers (not subscribers, which never exceeded 2,000) the press as an instrument in behalf of truth, righteousness and charity, has been to a large extent his reward.

THE EDITOR.

GRATSWORTH, ONT., Dec. 16th, 1878.