AN OPEN LETTER.

PROMINENT DIVINE ON LEADING NEWSPAPER.

To the Editor:

A certain leading Divine of Ontario, when critising the newspapers of Toronto, complained that during the late fight in that Province about the "Referendum," the majority of them had nothing positive at all to say on the matter, which had led him to the conclusion that the ordinary "Daily" no longer has any opinions on subjects of public interest, but, like telephones and telegraph wires, are mere transmitters. There is a certain amount of truth in this statement. Not only is this the case, but in many instances the matter is even worse. Some papers only have opinions when paid to express them. If a sufficient amount of the "filthy lucre" is brought forward, they can be induced to have very decided and very strong opinions upon almost any subject. There is one paper, however, we are glad to say, which "none of these things can move." It has its opinions upon every public question, and upon all occasions it is ready to utter with a fearlessness and a candor which must commend it to right thinking men. This newspaper is the Montreal Daily "Witness." published by John Dougall & Son. The 'Witness' makes for righteousness and truth regardless of cost and consequences. It stands four square to every wind that blows. It has principles (which is a somewhat rare thing for a newspaper to have in these days) and by these principles it is prepared to stand or fall. Personally, I value the 'Witness' tor many things. I like it because of the reliability of its news. I am also partial to to the 'Witness' because of its educative influence. Every subject of interest is there discussed in strong, vigorous, fearless editorials, and better still, all are dealt with from a Cristian standpoint. These editorials bear the stamp of a high order of literary merit, and almost a painful conscientiousness. It is indeed a refreshing thing in these days, when men talk of the 'almighty dollar' as if it were Almighty, to find a newspaper whose principles go right down through the pocket, and whose owners are willing to sacrifice for 'conscience sake.' There are papers that publish religious things because these may secure for the paper an entrance into homes from which they would otherwise be excluded. Bnt the religion of the 'Witness' permeates the whole paper. Long may it live, abundantly may it prosper, and long may it be spared to inform, educate, inspire and uplift humanity.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) REV. W. D. REID B.D., B.A.

[Rev. Mr. Reid is pastor of one of the largest Presbyterian churches in the metropolis. Ed.]

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