

“there is no end,” are in the hands of all our friends. The same field is also cultivated by various deservedly popular religious magazines, intended for all denominations.

At the same time, those who wish, in the quiet of their homes, to enjoy devotional, practical, or experimental reading, ought to be able to find some portion of such material here. Church-life will be vigorous in proportion as the hearts of individual members are kept with all diligence. It is especially incumbent on the conductors of such a periodical, in a time when doubt is so general and error so bold, to make it a citadel of offence and defence against the current assaults on the truths of Revelation.

It is not necessary to devote much space to general religious intelligence. There are very few of our subscribers who do not take in a number of other periodicals, Canadian, British or American. The daily and weekly press, with its ample space, frequency of issue, and promptness of circulation, gathers up the most important items of this nature. It were vain for us to lag after them, repeating a thrice-told tale. If we have subscribers who do not see such periodicals, we are very glad that they take in ours; but it would not be just, for their sakes, to select matter which the great body of our readers would have seen before.

Our conception of our duties, therefore, is, that we are to lay before the Congregationalists of British North America, matter specially interesting to them, and which they are not likely to see elsewhere. On this principle, we seek to procure intelligence of all movements occurring within the several churches of the body—the opening of new missions, the formation of churches, any special work of grace going on among them, the settlement or removal of pastors, the erection and opening of their houses of worship, their social or other special gatherings, their financial plans, and every other circumstance in their condition and progress in which their brethren at large will be interested. And let us here remark that our correspondents are often exceedingly indolent in furnishing us with facts of the above nature, which we earnestly wish to communicate, and our readers are thirsting to know. Such information can reach the Congregational brotherhood through no other channel than this. No other periodical cares to insert as much of it as we wish to give; or has the same access to the circle it ought to reach.—In like manner, the *Independent* gives its space freely to notice the combined operations of the churches of our faith and order. No Canadian secular newspaper, or religious journal—catholic or denominational, would be willing to publish all that we record of the meetings and other proceedings of the Union, the Missionary Society, the College, the Widows' Fund, the Indian Mission, or the Associations. Through no other channel than this, can any fact be communicated, or any notice given in relation to these organizations, to the parties concerned. This we regard, therefore, as one of the essential departments of our work.—Concerning these, and many other matters, our