

# THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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## EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

ATTENTION is called to the official notice of last month, that the third quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee of the C. C. M. S. will be held in Montreal on April the 8th. Churches requiring the services of students for the summer vacation should send their applications to the secretary, Rev. Dr. Jackson, Kingston, at once.

THE treasurer of the C. C. Missionary Society will make out his annual statement for the auditors not later than the first week in May, therefore the accounts for the year 1883-4 will have to be closed by the 15th of next month. Those churches which have not already sent in their annual collections with the lists, should take notice of this and forward at once. It is very important that all sums belonging to this year should appear in the treasurer's statement, as the Colonial Missionary Society base their grant of twenty per cent. on the amount reported by the Canadian churches.

WE see by the Montreal papers that the Montreal Loan and Mortgage Company, in which twenty-two out of the twenty-four thousand dollars of our Provident Fund seem to have been invested, is in difficulties. There is talk of a reduction of stock, twenty or twenty-five per cent. of liquidation even. The Presbyterian and Methodist colleges have heavy interests also. We, at this distance, know little of the true inwardness of this financial perplexity. We draw attention to the fact chiefly for this reason: Seven of the widows and three of the children of our departed ministers are depending upon their annuities, the very smallness of which makes it all the more imperative that the dole should not fail. We do not desire to discuss with the afterwise the wisdom of investing eleven-twelfths of a trust fund in one institution that

seemed to offer an exceptionally high rate of interest, but to insist that the annuities must be first made good. We therefore appeal (on our own editorial responsibility) to the churches, that they set themselves at once to work to increase their contributions to this branch of denominational work, so that those whose very bread may be dependent upon a supply that for a time may fail, shall not miss their already too small, but very much needed quarterage. In other words, to the rescue first, then wisdom for future management and repairing any losses that may be. We promise to double our contributions. Who next?

CREED making in this restless, critical, hasty nineteenth century is not the easiest task for even consecrated intellects. It is well known that great diversity of opinion obtains even among churches that openly accept a definite creed. Would any one, strange to our ecclesiastical evasions, dream that the author of the "Fourfold State" and the writers of "Scotch Sermons" owned allegiance to the same confession of faith? The former pure, bold, pronounced Calvinism; the other — well, broad enough for the broadest Unitarian, if not for the Agnostic. The theologies of the late Dean Stanley and of Cannon Liddon are divided by the whole domain of dogma; yet the one was Dean of Westminster, the other Canon at St. Paul's. Many earnest men, by no means rationalistic, would gladly see the creeds of the Reformation period, which bind so many churches, simplified, yet fear to take up old landmarks, uncertain where the new would be placed. Who can formulate a confession representing, even substantially, the belief of Christianity to-day? We published, August, 1882, an abbreviated confession for the use of the missionaries of the Presbyterian churches of old Scotia, in which not one of the distinctive features of Calvinism was found, and where the question of eternal pun-