

THE  
**Canadian Independent.**

VOL. XIX.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1872.

No. 3.

ONE WAY OF GETTING BENEVOLENT CONTRIBUTIONS.

Now that the heat and the harvest and the holidays are nearly over, and pastors and people are coming home and settling down for another season of church work, the questions will come up in each ecclesiastical family—*what* shall be done for our various denominational societies, and *how* shall we do it? There are the Missionary Society, the College, the Widows' Fund, the Indian Mission, and the Union, successively—not always successfully—appealing for aid, besides many other societies, religious and charitable, of a non-denominational character. Some of these have travelling agents, who may be left to attend to their own business; but for others the responsibility is thrown upon the Church itself. It is of the latter cases that we now write.

In our judgment the highest and purest form of voluntary benevolence is that in which gifts for Christ's cause are brought by the giver spontaneously, and cast into the treasury. This is practised in some churches with a good degree of success, the envelopes being filled with respectable amounts; but we are sorry to say that it demands a higher education in the grace of giving, and in the intelligent appreciation of the merits of the various claims on our liberality, than most have attained unto.

The miserable parody upon the above system, which appears in the copper or dime "public collection," is hardly worthy of mention in any serious consideration of the methods of supplying the large demands of the work. Its only legitimate function is that of "gathering up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."

Then comes the plan of personal appeal by collectors going from house to house. This is undoubtedly the most effective, reaching every one, and presenting the case to him in the most suitable manner. But in order to its success, the collectors must be men or women who understand their business—well acquainted with the object presented, able to give information and to meet objections, and who have influence with the desired subscribers, as well as the special "gift" of col-