

# THE CANADIAN DAY-STAR.

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"I am the light of the world."  
"Preach the Gospel to every creature."—JESUS.

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MARCH, 1863.

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## DID THE LUTHERAN CHURCH AT THE REFORMATION RENOUNCE THE AUGUSTINIAN, OR CALVINIAN, DOGMA OF UNCONDITIONAL PREDESTINATION?

It is frequently very difficult, and sometimes impossible for us to determine what were the real views, on certain important doctrines of theology, entertained by the Reformers. There was, by no means, a uniformity of sentiment among them. They differed widely from one another; and the more we examine their writings the more satisfied do we become, that even the greatest and the best of them were but men,—imperfect, fallible, erring men. Their own opinions and practices required to be reformed, and the leading spirits among them, as might be expected, renounced some of those Augustinian dogmas which in the early stages of the Reformation they had themselves defended. Martin Luther is a striking example of this. In his later years he flatly contradicted what he had published in the early part of his life, on the freedom of the will, and other points in dispute. His warm heart expanded, and he died, we are credibly informed, a firm believer in the freedom of the human will, and the love of God to all mankind. There seems to be no way of accounting for the conflicting statements from his own pen, and the conflicting statements of historians respecting him, without bearing this in mind.

For example, Dr. Hade, in his history of the Christian Church, says of Luther, "The great champion of intellectual freedom, in consistency with the logical requirements of his system, did not hesitate in a passionate reply [in his controversy with Erasmus]