

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

(NEW SERIES.)

VOL. V.]

TORONTO, JANUARY 1, 1886.

[No. 1

EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

WE make our New Year's bow and send our Christmas greetings to our readers and friends. Grace, mercy, peace, beloved; and blessings enduring. Amen.

Being practical, and the *Year Book* being before us, making also our bow from a Congregational press, expecting moreover to visit you fortnightly henceforth, we will give our New Year's address a denominational shape and seek to strike a note of advance for 1886. The *Year Book* shall be our text, on which by way of preface we would say that though very late in appearing, it is worthy of its immediate predecessors. Mr. Warriner has proved a worthy successor to the former most efficient editor, Dr. Jackson.

The Sunday school statistical report, and the comments thereon, present a new and important feature, and we would emphasize the importance of securing literature in the schools bearing the impress of our Congregational houses. This we say, not in a sectarian spirit, but because the stern fact stares us in the face that if we have any specific witness to bear as distinct from sister denominations, we must preserve our identity or be "snuffed out."

The year covered by the *Year Book* reports appears to have witnessed a backward step, there being ten resignations and removals against seven ordinations and installations. This however is more apparent than real, as an analysis would make plain; nor must it be overlooked that there have been five new churches organized, and one re-organized; among these we specially note the one in St. Thomas, and the other in Woodstock. Moreover the admirable summary of our Statistical Secretary shows a substantial gain in the membership of the churches.

Our financial position ought to be understood. This we know is not a very inviting subject, but one that will be cheerfully faced

by those whose hearts the Lord has touched. The reports in connexion with the Missionary Society and College deserve a careful study. Here is the key to the future of the denomination; mission work by faithful men who shall be able to teach. No church can afford to be even lukewarm on these subjects. The church that shuts out from its warmest sympathies our home missions and college invites to itself spiritual declension and death. Let it be every one's interest to do something, and all difficulty will disappear. Let us note a thought or two. An average attendance is reported upon our Sunday services of 14,500. One cent per week from these would yield our Missionary Society \$7,250, to which if we add the 20 per cent. from the Colonial Missionary Society, we should have an increase this year of \$8,700. That would float us just now, and less will make us bankrupt. Is one cent a Sunday from all our friends too much?

A rather spread-eagle error has crept into our *Year Book* in the statistics regarding Congregational Colleges. Our's heads the list with seven professors! In turning to the page of officers we find seven lines, but our good friend Dr. Stevenson is counted twice over. Well now we have a kind of jealousy in finding our excellent principal estimated as Fanny Fern does woman—double-you-O-man! Besides we are not all professors. Alas, alas! but really we are not. However there is luck in odd numbers and "we are seven."

THEN our College. A similar allocation of means would do much, very much towards its more thorough equipment. The disadvantage in pleading for College work is that the results are not as apparent numerically as more direct church work; and yet we hesitate not in saying that here we touch that which must give tone to our future. Here our work begins, stunt it, and our progress is impeded, if not stayed, at the very beginning. The impetus