

T H E

Canadian Independent.

VOL. XIV. TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1867.

No. 4.

CHRISTIAN POLITICS.

We are strong politicians, but not here. The pages of a religious magazine are to the general newspaper, what the Sabbath is to working days, what the church is to the house or the shop. Business is lawful, but the Lord's day is not the time for it, nor the Lord's house the place. Party discussions are lawful, but the secular press is the vehicle for such discussions, not the religious.

Yet there are aspects of political affairs which it eminently becomes a periodical of this nature to present, which are not subjects of party-strife, which all parties need to consider, but to which no party may do full justice. We mean what may be called the morals, even the religion, of politics.

The present time, when we are entering on a new era of political existence, and forming habits which will influence succeeding generations, when, too, the people of the New Dominion have just been called upon to choose their first legislators under the Confederate dispensation, seems a most appropriate one for calling attention to the matter.

Ought Christian men to take part in politics? Are they not "of the earth, earthy?" part of that "world" to which we are bidden *not* to be "conformed?" Our answer is—Politics are not more worldly than business of any kind. We are in this present world—there is no doubt of that—and it is of no use to pretend to be anywhere else. While we are here, we have to take our place like other men. "I pray not"—said our Master and Mediator—"I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the *world*, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the *evil*." Business is connected with innumerable evils, falsehood, fraud, and trickery of every kind, yet no one thinks that on that account he ought to leave it to men of the world. The stern necessities of hunger drive men to earn their bread. Politics we can leave alone with less of immediate personal loss. But is it not a terrible alternative to contemplate, that, in a free country, where every citizen is invested with a measure of power, the best part of them should withdraw from all participation in public affairs, and leave them to "certain lewd fellows of the