

THE  
CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

---

---

VOL. VI.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1860.

No. 9.

---

---

"GOD'S SEED WILL ALWAYS BRING GOD'S HARVEST."

This is a saying of one of whom it was observed, "he was always praying, always preaching, always visiting the sick, always catechising, and always studying." To his own beloved people, Samuel Rutherford said, "My witness is above, that your heaven would be two heavens to me, and the salvation of you all as two salvations to me." His use therefore of the thought that, "God's seed will always bring God's harvest," could not be to cast aside all diligence in labouring for souls; but rather to his fervent spirit, was the lucid finger of hope pointing to ultimate and certain success in the toil of God's husbandry. Undoubtedly our fainting courage is revived, by the use of cordials bottled in the vintage of prayer and meditation. When toil seems lost, by the destroying influences of frost and blight, the drooping heart is cheered by the Divine assurance, that in the work of the Lord our labour is not in vain.

The sower ought to regard the nature and quality of the seed. The good seed of the Kingdom, and not tares, will produce God's harvest. Application must be made at God's storehouse for the genuine article. The Bible is a full granary. Truth is there waiting the selection and appropriation of the man of God. Before he binds in his bosom the sheaves, he must carry in his hand the seed, with which he stalks manfully forth to scatter broadcast on the field of the world the precious deposit, in hope of a large return. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." A yield of gospel fruit, must come from a liberal sowing of gospel truth. If preaching or instruction is lacking of the grand characteristics of the gospel—if the cross occupies not the foreground, but is pushed aside to make room for self, standing before it to receive the frankincense of popular applause; or is covered with the flowers of rhetoric; or hid by the drapery of ceremonial rites—then we have another gospel than the gospel of Christ. Dry essays on secondary and subordinate topics, making up the bulk of pulpit ministrations, must for ever fail to bring a harvest of souls redeemed to God by the blood of the Lamb. Truth may be preached, but not that kind of truth adapted to awaken the earnest cry, the penitential tear, to break the flinty heart.

"How oft, when Paul has served us with a text,  
Has Epictetus, Plato, Tully, preached!"

Commanding position must be given to God and his plan of redemption; to Christ and his offices and works as Prophet, Priest, and King; to the Holy Ghost and his influence on the human heart; to man, his transgression, immortality,