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THE FUNCTION OF THE "CANADIAN INDEPENDENT."

There are three things which every man, as he stands by and looks at another man doing them, thinks he could do better himself. The first is, to poke a fire; the second, to bring up a child; and the third, to edit a newspaper. We have no doubt that many of the readers of this magazine have often thought they could manage it far better. It may be of some service, therefore, that we should expound our own idea of what the *Canadian Independent* should be, so that our friends may understand precisely why it is what it is, and is not what it is not.

This periodical was established in the interest of the Congregational Churches of Canada and the other Provinces of British North America, not to be under their direct control, but to record their movements, to advocate their principles, and to enable them to communicate with each other all the year round. It is avowedly denominational in its character and aims. As it is the only publication for this purpose, there being no weekly newspaper or quarterly review, or other monthly magazine, it alone must fill, so far as it can, the places elsewhere occupied by each of these. And as it is meant alike for ministers and laymen, for town and country, and for all conditions and ages, it must cater for all the various wants that are so required to be met; and, this, within thirty-two octavo pages, issued once a month!

It is manifestly an utter impossibility, to embrace within such a compass all the matter that could be provided to satisfy such multifarious demands. There must be selection, and innumerable good things must be left out, very many better than what go in. On what principle shall the selection be made?

We do not think it should be made on that of the *intrinsic importance* of the several topics that may present themselves. If it were, the fundamental themes of Revelation would be discussed and enforced, filling these pages from month to month. It is not because they are held in any secondary estimation, that they do not occupy such a place: but because, for these our readers do not need to come to us. These are the subjects on which pastors are continually preaching, and on which "many books," of making which