

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

(NEW SERIES.)

VOL. VI.]

TORONTO, AUGUST 1, 1887.

[No. 14.

Editorial Jottings.

THE only word we have had thus far from the Union of the Maritime Provinces is the following resolution, which we cheerfully publish:

This Union most heartily recommends to the churches THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT, and hopes that no efforts will be spared to introduce it into every family in connection with our congregations. We intend no reflection upon past management of the magazine, but we do most earnestly desire to have the only denominational organ which our churches have in Canada made a medium of instruction and information to our people on the essentials of our faith, polity, history and present operations in the world. We especially wish the magazine to be an exponent and advocate of Congregationalism, as distinguished from Independency, which latter term has been misunderstood and abused.

IT will be remembered that in our report of the Union proceedings in Toronto a doubt was expressed as to the soundness of THE INDEPENDENT on church polity, an expression which found no audible response save from the respected pastor of the First Church, Kingston, who gave a heartily sympathetic "hear, hear!" We are heartily glad that a craving has arisen for instruction in Congregational principles, and we are vain enough to believe that THE INDEPENDENT, even under its present management, has contributed largely to this healthy state of things. A little attention to its files will prove this with reasonable clearness. Moreover, we promise, when these "dog days" are over, to say something more on polity and creed. Meanwhile a few words on our "present operations in the world." It is a healthy desire that seeks information regarding the work of our brethren in other lands. But where have some of our readers' eyes been wandering? Have not Mr. Hall's letters from England been full of informa-

tion regarding churches and friends in the Old Land? Is not the students' department full of church news? Read Mr. Pedley's letter from Winnipeg; and can any news come closer to our hearts than Mr. Currie's letters from his field?

AND still further. Why do not some of our pastors, not one of whom is more busy than the editor, give us some articles, models of brevity, interest and power? An historical article appeared some time ago. One of our pastors spoke of an omission therein. We asked for a line correcting the same. "Oh, no! too busy," was the reply. No one should have time to grumble who has not time to mend.

A WORD as to heavy theology. A respected brother has referred to this criticism as it appeared in our Union report. We premise, however, that our kind critic in this particular would be the last man to advocate shallowness. Yet for very many under the Gospel sound the words of our correspondent (private) are too true:

"Platitudes" for the spiritually indolent, "attitudes" for the formal and ritualistic, and "latitudes" for the loose and bold will always be popular; but altitudes will always be repulsive, and depths will be disagreeable.

Men are too busy to think; the inn of life is too full of business and pleasure for the Saviour to find room except in a stall.

As we go to press we have received a very full account of the Union meetings at St. John, N.B., which is in the printers' hands for an early issue. We have indulged in a seven-days' holiday since the last issue, which must be our excuse for scanty editorial jottings. We promise more next time.