

the other general organizations might avail themselves of his services, and render a proportionate compensation for the same. But the magazine and the mission would give ample employment to a vigorous man.

4. The experience of other religious bodies on the same field shows that such an officer is needed, though the range of his duties may vary. Thus, in every Synod of the Episcopal Church, there is a paid Secretary; the Kirk of Scotland and the Canadian Presbyterian Church have each a general Agent and Editor; the Wesleyan Church has a Book-room Steward, an Editor, two Stipendiary Missionary Secretaries, and other special agents; the Primitive, New Connexion, and Episcopal Methodists, and the Bible Christians, have each an Editor and Book Steward, who, in the first instance, at least, is also Missionary Secretary; and the Baptists recently appointed a General Missionary Superintendent, who was already editor, with the assistance of a second minister in the latter capacity.

There is no doubt that we have suffered greatly from having had to *borrow* such services from the pastors of Churches.

#### ACTS OF INCORPORATION OF OUR SEVERAL DENOMINATIONAL SOCIETIES.

As Documents of permanent historical value, and for convenient reference, we insert together in this volume of the Year Book, these several Acts of Incorporation, with any Amendments that may have been made in them, up to the present year.

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## OUR DENOMINATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

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### THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

Is a voluntary association of churches and ministers, each member being received separately, on application, and on complying with the requirements of the standing rules. Membership in it is not necessary to the "good and regular standing" of any minister or church, but it is an acknowledged advantage.

The Union exercises no authority over the churches or ministers connected with it—its power is simply *advisory*. The only cases in which it seems to exercise anything like "discipline," are those in which it decides, like all voluntary associations, who shall be received and retained in *its own membership*.

The annual meeting furnishes a most enjoyable, helpful, and quite indispensable opportunity for ministers and delegates to meet together in Christian fellowship. It enables us, by the collection of statistics, and written or verbal narratives, to "know our brethren's affairs, and how they do." It also affords facilities for taking counsel together on our general movements, and in respect to great public questions. It is a channel of intercommunication with Christian brethren elsewhere. The Missionary Societies, College, Provident Fund, and Magazine, have all grown out of the Union.