

"THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT."

This periodical, founded in 1854, without being an official "organ," is the recognised channel of communication between the Congregationalists of the Dominion. It is a Monthly, of 32 pages octavo; edited by Rev. S. N. Jackson, M.D.; price one dollar a year. It is published in Toronto, by a body of proprietors, constituting a Company. This "Year-Book" is also issued from their office.

THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

For all information respecting these, we refer to the following pages 25-34.

CONGREGATIONALISM IN CANADA.

One object of the publication of this YEAR BOOK is to place on record, in a permanent form, for future reference, the chief facts in relation to the history of the Congregational Churches in Canada. Materials exist to a considerable extent, for this purpose, scattered through various reports and numbers of the *Canadian Independent*. But these are not now within the reach of many of our friends, nor have they been collected together. We propose, therefore, to put them into a connected form, with such additions as we may be able to supply, in order to fill up any gaps in the story.

The first paper we thus reproduce is from the pen of Dr. Wilkes, and appeared in the *Canadian Independent* for June and August, 1867 (vol. xiii., pp. 478-481; vol. xiv., pp. 75-79). It is entitled—

"ORIGIN OF THE COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY."

How often it occurs, in the Divine administration of human affairs, that the very thing which men think least of amid any series of acts of theirs, turns out vastly the most important! This is illustrated in the visit to this continent, in 1834, of the Revs. Andrew Reed and James Matheson, who were expressly commissioned by the Congregational Union of England and Wales as their Deputation to the American Churches, without any thought whatever of Canada. One can imagine the sort of awe and sober enthusiasm with which, at some meeting of committee in London, these brethren were appointed to this mission, and they accepted it; or perhaps there was some discussion on the matter at the autumnal meeting, if there was one, of the Congregational Union of England and Wales in 1833. There are no dates given in the volume before me;* but as they sailed from Liverpool (no steamships then), and found the Third Presbytery sitting in New York, whose time of sitting is early in April, it is plain that they could not have come from the May meeting. Their thoughts in undertaking the mission, and the purposes of the Union which commissioned them, were confined to the United States—yea, and of their two goodly octavo volumes of one thousand pages, all but seventy are devoted to the United States. Yet the results of what is described in said seventy pages incalculably outweigh all else that was accom-

* Reed and Matheson's Visit to the American Churches, 2 vols., 8 vo.

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