

# THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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## EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

THERE ever liveth one, making intercession for us at the Father's right hand, who, touched with the feeling of our infirmities, can enter into our trials, joys, endeavors. Do we use him to anything like the extent of our privilege? With us always, his presence strengthens, cheers; with God ever, he brings us very near the throne;

"So near, so very near to God  
I cannot nearer be,  
For in the person of the Son  
I am as near as He."

Why walk as beggars with such a princely Saviour? Reader, draw near and receive as God bestows.

WE find the following sonnet in *The Christian World*, and commend it to the consideration of our esteemed friend *The Morning Star*. *The Canadian Baptist* might not injure its eyesight by reading:

BAPTIST AND CONGREGATIONALIST.

"Only a little water!" shall a rill  
A child could span arrest and paralyse  
Two great Denominations' sympathies,  
Which, with united force, concentrated will,  
Could so well serve the Master, and fulfil  
His great commission? To His larger eyes,  
How small must seem our shibboleths; unwise  
Our meaningless contentions; watch-words shrill!  
Put on thy strength, O Zion; gird thy sword,  
Cut through these withes; all things Thy coming  
wait.

Commerce its sails doth spread, with hope elate;  
Knowledge her lamp doth trim, and avarice hoard  
His treasure—and the world cries out for God!  
Shall our phylacteries obstruct His road?

THE English Presbyterian Church Synod is busy formulating a declaration that shall soften some of the hard lines of the Calvinism of the Westminster Confession. There appears to be

virtual unanimity in the movement, only Presbyterian wheels revolve slowly. There is also a very decided movement in favor of adopting something like a liturgy; and a committee has been entrusted with giving definite shape to the same. The most encouraging feature of such movements is the constant approach to that scriptural principle for which the Independent churches have always contended, and for which they exist to-day. No binding of church or conscience save by the word of the living God. Liturgy or No Liturgy is not a test of Christian fellowship, nor a controversial creed, like that of Westminster, with all its excellencies, a basis upon which Christian unity can be reached; but the Word of God, which abideth ever, is a sure ground of confidence and of life.

WE gather from that well tried and steadfast journal, the *Nonconformist and Independent*, the following items concerning our Scottish brethren at their Union meeting which began on Tuesday, April 27th:

The annual meetings of this Union—its seventy-fourth anniversary—were held in Edinburgh. The Rev. Dr. Bevan was present as delegate from the Congregational Union of England and Wales, and officiated on the Sunday previous to the meetings in two of the churches of the denomination in the city. On Tuesday morning the business proceedings of the Union were commenced, Rev. J. Garvie, Greenock, presiding. The report of the Provident Fund showed receipts for the past year to the amount of £641, and a balance of £113 to be carried to the capital account, which stood at £10,941. Ten aged brethren had received annuities from the fund of £50 each. A report of a still more satisfactory nature was given in with regard to the Widows' Fund. The grants in this case were £592, and a legacy of £528 had been received during the year, in addition to an ordinary revenue of £657. Reports with reference to the Theological Hall were submitted. It was stated that the Union was now in the happy position of having a well-equipped seminary, fitted for carrying on the work of theological education, entirely free