

The importance of our possessing a history of our mission is too evident to require much illustration. Every family and every nation loves to go back to its early annals. "The glory of children are their fathers." Our spirit is stirred within us as we read the story of our Nonconformist ancestors, and of the Reformers and Primitive Christians in whose inheritance we claim a share. And though distance of place and time seems necessary to form the full halo which surrounds great names, there have been, and are, missionaries upon this Colonial field, whose piety, devotedness, self-sacrifice, and toils are as worthy of commemoration as those of Christ's servants in far-off lands and ages. The present generation, who have entered into their labours, ought to hear the story of those early struggles by which our present privileges have been won. Our younger ministers, even, know but little of the founders of our Mission in Canada: the youth growing up in private families must know still less. Let twenty years more pass, without recording the traditions of the elders, and they will be lost for ever! Every succeeding year will make the loss more difficult to be repaired, and more deplorable to thoughtful men, who may crave a complete knowledge of the history of the Provinces or of the Congregational Body.

But how is our church history to be written? Who will do it? And how can it best be done? The supply of *materials* must be the work of many hands, for no one person is in possession of all the facts concerning every place. The best conceivable plan would be to appoint a man of keen discernment, impartial temper and ready pen, to visit each locality, to compile the story of the mission then carried on, and to cast these into a general narrative, together with the combined operations of the churches and the course taken by them in relation to public questions. But we have no hope that any competent person could be detached for a year or two for such service. It has been already suggested, that the Union appoint a Committee to draw up such a sketch. This would be feasible, if the members of such Committee each took a section of the field, and wrought it up thoroughly. But they would be trammelled by their being officially appointed to represent the body, and could not speak with the freedom required in a complete and outspoken narrative. A better plan would be, for the several Associations to take up the task on their respective fields. But we are disposed to think, that the best plan of all will be, for the *Canadian Independent* to undertake the work, being supplied with facts from every available source, and assuming the responsibility for all that is said or left unsaid. By this means the history can be written with greater freedom, and at the same time circulated among those whom it concerns.

Yet while we see no better plan than the one now suggested, we are fully sensible of the difficulty and delicacy of the task. The recency of the events gives us an advantage in the collection of facts;—but it also makes it almost impossible to speak of many of them as they would need to be spoken