

# THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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## EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

THE CANADIAN CONGREGATIONAL YEAR BOOK FOR 1884-5 is now before us and is worthy of the excellent numbers that have preceded it under the painstaking editorship of our friend, Dr. Jackson. Besides the usual reports of the denomination, there is a translation from the *Sunday School Times* of the "Teaching of the Twelve Apostles," and the statement of doctrine prepared by the committee of the National Council of Congregational churches in the United States. The paper on "Administration of Local Churches," by our esteemed brother, W. H. Allworth, read before the union is also inserted, and should be studied carefully by all young pastors. Older ones need not turn away from its practical advice. Brethren, "read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest." Much vexation may be avoided thereby.

We notice that the Biographical sketch of our brother, Mr. Ebbs, is credited to J. B. We desire to say that by far the greater part was contributed by a member of his family, and by his old college and life-long friend, Mr. Allworth. We are sorry to note in the excellent report of the union meeting the same misunderstanding of our chairman's address that entered so largely into the August letter of our loving and energetic Superintendent; and we certainly must take exception to the use of the word "infernal" though it be a quotation, in such a connection. We hope an oversight only allowed its insertion. It is unseemly, to say the least. We return to the subject of the chairman's address because we desire to press this principle; beyond all denominations we need the bond of Christian sympathy, and that means in all differences of opinion that obtain, as obtain they must, whence liberty is accorded, that each should endeavour to understand the other, not as an adversary to be beaten down, but as a brother

with whom conference is to be had; and conference means an openness of expression—shall we say in N. T. language a *parresie*—frank freeness of utterance—only possible where sympathetic confidence reigns.

Two very noticeable facts are presented in the very admirable report of our Statistical Secretary. There are reported nineteen ordinations and installations against seven resignations and removals. Last year the record stood eighteen against thirteen, the year previous gave five ordinations and installations, and fifteen recognitions and removals; while the year before that records twenty-one to seventeen. The previous year again shows ten ordinations and installations with twelve removals. A careful comparison of these tables will show even better than the figures that there is a decided advance both in growth and permanence.

The other fact is the increase of membership, which has already been noted in our columns, averaging eight per cent. of the entire number. Mr. Warner says "I have never known so large an increase during the six years in which I have had charge of this special department of work."

In view of all these manifest tokens of blessings, continued in the marked increase of students for our ministry, we earnestly urge perseverance, diligence, faith. That minor strain we have so long heard has been rebuked, not in anger, but in love; let us bow our heads in humble gratitude, to lift them up in faith and hope, the set time to favour Zion has come, let not any be found wanting.

It is not a pleasant thing "to prove humanity but base" or to perpetuate the bitterness of religious differences. Yet facts are facts, and we cannot afford to sleep with an enemy at our gates. Eyes closed may be the prelude to a dread awakening. For truth's sake we chronicle the following instances of bigotry