

## Editorial.

### The Canadian Independent.

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#### "SORRY CHRISTIANS."

An aged minister, of great experience in training and caring for the young, writes us regarding the recent large accessions to the membership of some of our Missionary Churches:—"I am anxious about the subsequent training and teaching of the people who, we hope, are converted. They will make sorry Christians without this."

The anxiety expressed is by no means causeless. It has been too little felt. Christian people, and even ministers, have too frequently felt as if a soul truly converted to God might almost be left to take care of itself; or at least might be left to the Lord to take care of. Do we not regard such souls as "saved?" And do we not believe in the final perseverance of the saints? Why then be anxious about those who are now safe in the fold of the Good Shepherd? Such is the way in which too many reason—if not aloud, at any rate inwardly.

Now, it is undoubtedly true, and it is a very precious and comfortin<sup>g</sup> truth, that "he that believeth on the Son of God hath everlasting life;" and more, he "shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life." And if salvation were the only object in view in the bringing of sinners to Christ,

and if that salvation meant just so much and no more of heavenly bliss, in every case, we might cease our labours and anxieties on behalf of all true converts.

But the Divine plan contemplates something more than the salvation of the sinner from hell, or even from his sins. The Lord would make him the instrument of saving other souls, and so by the training of all the powers and faculties of his moral nature, in active service, immensely increase at once his capacity for enjoyment, and his joy in the presence of Christ over those whom he has brought to Him, or has helped on in their way to glory.

There are, indeed, some "sorry Christians" in the world. There were in Paul's time—and perhaps there always will be—some, of whom he wrote "even weeping." We have sometimes thought the devil lets go his hold of some men more easily than others, perceiving, in his craftiness, that they are such queer impracticable creatures that they will do him better service in the church than in the world. Nor does he miscalculate. There are some "crooked" things that can never "be made straight," and there are some real Christians whose natural perversity is such as to make their connection with the Church of Christ more fruitful of evil than of good. Instead of being helpers and comforters to him, they lie like a millstone upon a pastor's heart. That is their mission!

There is almost as much difference