

THE  
CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25th, 1879.

HOLIDAY GREETING.

TO all our readers from Margaree to Winnipeg, and to all our cotemporaries, the INDEPENDENT sends the greetings of the season. How much of joy and benevolence pleasant custom brings into this week of memories of the Holy Child! Families will be reunited, broken associations will be repaired, gladness will fill hearts and light up features afresh. Parents and children will draw their chairs nearer to each other. Asperities will disappear. Hard thoughts will be buried. Charity will quicken each spirit, and untie each purse. The poor will know again the willing bounty of the rich. The rich will know heaven's joy of giving. And all these gentle, gladsome influences may be traced to the babe of Bethlehem.

The incarnation of Jesus is the leading truth for the Christmas tide. He came very near to men when he took our nature. We will not, we must not, overlook the Divine Child while we plan our merriment, and sing out our Christmas joys. We will not forget the holy day in the holiday.

What thousands of gifts will be made. No one will be forgotten. Gifts secretly purchased and hidden till the gift day comes; gifts wrought at in seclusion and quickly hidden when any footstep is near; gifts costly and humble, will all be trooped forth on the Christmas day, and hearts will be gladly surprised. Let us not forget the story of those who poured out at the feet of Mary's child gold, frankincense and myrrh. And in all our giving we will bring to Christ our hearts, and He will think them the richest gift of all.

Then as to the New Year, may it be a new year to all. How many records of the year now dying we would like to obliterate! How many words we wish we had not spoken! How many things we wish we had not done! How many thoughts tinged by unkindness we wish we had not harboured! Regrets are vain now. But 1880 may be a new year to us, if we will only bring into it more and more of the spirit of the Holy Child. May this untried year so near at hand be laden with new joys and experiences to our hearts, our homes, our churches, our world.

Will our patrons accept our kindly greeting, and ever remember those who constantly and happily work for them the year through? "The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all, evermore; Amen!"

ABOUT APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION.

THE Queen City has surely seen enough of this senseless controversy about Succession. It has been carried on spasmodically for many months. But the argumentative gladiators thrust and parry still. A new com-

batant has lately appeared in the arena. He styles himself "Laicus." These are the interesting words he utters as he bounds into the fray. They are rather hard upon us poor dissenters.

"A person cannot reject the authority of those in the Succession without virtually accusing our Lord of not having fulfilled His promise, and such a person should not be believed when he says that the Spirit witnesses that he is a child of God; for a person who does not believe the Lord, is not fit to be believed. They who do not believe the Lord's promise in reference to the Succession, have no good reason to believe His other promises, and this is the position in which all Dissenters are placed. They have taken the first step towards infidelity; and the reason why all of them do not run their full course, i.e., become infidels, is because many of them lodge in the jungle of fanaticism, which is an irrational faith."

The best answer we have seen to the patrons of unbroken Succession, is the following simile from a late issue of the "Christian at Work." It is practical, and pointed, and easily comprehended by any one who has but a grain of common sense. Here it is:

"You see this blacksmith-shop behind us? You see the forge opposite? This one belongs to an old citizen of the town. It has been in the family for two or three generations. The man who inherited the smithy from his father is a real botch; he is a bungler at horse-shoeing; his edge tools are worthless; and you can tell his job anywhere by its clumsiness. He is in the regular line of succession. Last year a man came to town and opened his blacksmith-shop on the opposite side of the street. No one knew where he came from. He claimed simply to be a blacksmith, and his specialty was scythes. He won custom, for his tools were excellent. The old-time blacksmith was greatly excited. Such ingratitude, such neglect, was never heard of. To leave a smithy that had been in the family for four generations, and run after a nameless vagrant!" "Well," said the new comer, "my scythes cut, and I would rather have that brand on them than a certificate of succession coming down from 'Tubal Cain.'"

Effectiveness in pursuing the ministerial calling is worth far more than genealogy. The best proof a man can offer that his work has a divine sanction is the simple one demanded by Mr. Wesley of his candidates, "Do they win souls?" And such seals are infinitely ahead of such twaddle as Mr. Langtry advances.

A PARTING WORD.

WITH this issue I retire as managing editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT, and give the reins to my much respected friend Mr. H. J. Clark, who at the urgent request of the directors has kindly consented to take its management for the coming year. He and his associate editors will do their utmost to increase the value and usefulness of the INDEPENDENT to our churches. It is surely the plain duty of every pastor and every deacon in all our Congregational churches to heartily co-operate with Mr. Clark in his efforts to serve the churches in this way. The increase to the subscription list last year was over four hundred. We are fully persuaded that another four hundred could be easily added this year if every church would do its part.

The weekly has been launched, and from letters received from all over the country we are pleased to know that it meets with growing favour. Rev. E. Ebbs in a recent note says, "Its value is greatly increased by the change to a weekly. It deserves to succeed." Rev. Thos. Hall, St. John's, Newfoundland, says: "I like the INDEPENDENT and will do my best

to forward it." Mr. Hall has shown his good will in a practical manner. Formerly one copy went to Newfoundland monthly, now we send thirty-eight copies weekly. Dr. Wilkes recently wrote, "The CANADIAN INDEPENDENT has greatly improved. We are much pleased with it." Another from the east says, "I read it with increasing delight." One pastor who sent twenty new subscribers writes, "I am well pleased with the paper and wish every member of my congregation to read it."

It is gratifying to the editors to know that their efforts have met with such favour from their brethren in the churches. Our word is, let us all unite heartily, lovingly, in the coming year, and make the INDEPENDENT a still greater success. It rests entirely with the churches to do so. Those who are at the helm need and deserve the co-operation and encouragement of all their brethren. The paper is not run in the interests of any clique or party, but simply desires to promote the welfare of the Congregational churches in the Dominion. Let there be an advance all along the line. The Congregationalists of Canada can sustain a first-class religious weekly, and we are persuaded they will. We know of some pastors who have determined not to rest until every member of their congregation is a subscriber to the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT. Let us all go and do likewise. J. B. S.

OBITUARY.

The Congregational church, at Scotland, has sustained a severe loss in the sudden death of Mr. Robert Eadie, jr. He passed away after a few days illness, in the prime of life and strength, much respected and esteemed for his exemplary piety and consistent Christian life.

He was born in the city of Glasgow in 1825, and at the age of fifteen years united with the Gorbals Parish church, in which he soon became an active and useful servant of the Master.

In 1852 he married, and shortly after settled in Oakland and soon by industry and the blessing of God made a model farm and beautiful home. He and his wife united with the Congregational church at Scotland, in September, 1857, and shortly afterwards Mr. Eadie was appointed deacon. He will be long remembered for the regularity of his attendance upon the house and worship of God. Though living at the distance of three miles he and his family were seldom absent from the service of the Sanctuary.

His children were early dedicated to God in baptism, and six of the eleven he leaves behind have professed the name of Christ. Robert, the eldest, is in course of preparation for the ministry, which was a source of great satisfaction to his father. Was it a presentiment he had of his approaching end when he penned the following lines, just eight days before his death, to his sister, Mrs. Barr, of Norwich, condoling with her on the death of her grandchild? "Little Jamie has been often in my thoughts since I was in Norwich, he was called so suddenly; what a consolation is the thought that God does everything right. There was an excellent article in the 'British Workman' some years ago; the subject was, 'The Use of a Dead Child;' I have often wished I had saved it. May that dispensation of God's providence be blessed to all of us. We have felt very much for George and Clara, may it be the means of bringing them nearer to God, seeing that their son is now ever near God. We often think that time seems now to be moving very fast; the thought some-