

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

(NEW SERIES.)

Vol. V.]

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 15, 1886.

No. 22

EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

BLESSED is that man who maketh the Lord his trust. How few unreservedly do. Self seeking, self trust, self pleasing, forgetting that our great example and life pleased not himself, sought not his own, and leaned upon his Father. We talk of our rights, of what we want, our likes and dislikes: how little we think of our duties and of our privileges, of what God wants and Christ yearns for; of right and truth and love. Come Holy Spirit, come! enter thou in and take possession, free our hearts from self-forged fetters, and cause us to dwell in the rays of the eternal light, until, death's shadow passed, we enter the presence of the inner sanctuary.

"THE Kingdom of Heaven is at hand," was the burden of the preaching of the Baptist. A consummation devoutly to be wished, not exactly in the sense used by the preacher, but in an equally true one, may we not say that these approaches to unity amongst the churches of Christ bring us near to the revelation of the Kingdom of Heaven, the time of the one fold and one Shepherd, for never is it so near as when the followers of Jesus, forgetting the strifes of the past, join hand in hand, consecrated together to bring the world to the feet of the Master.

It is a common thing to teach that our prayers are often answered in a way we do not expect, but in the best way because God's way; and we quote in illustration Paul's thrice repeated request to be delivered from his infirmity and how the answer came to him. Yet is it not true that our petitions are sometimes answered as we ask, and the reply is scant and meagre just because the request was. Look at the instance where the disciples said to the Master, "Lord teach us to pray," and if they had stopped there, who knows what rich teach-

ings on prayer might have been vouchsafed to them, but they made their request more definite, in accordance with their own idea, "as John also taught his disciples," and they got that for which they asked—a form of prayer very beautiful and comprehensive, but only a form; gathered, as some tell us, from then existing Hebrew forms. But the real "Lord's Prayer," is that marvellous utterance of John 17, where the soul of the Master is poured forth for his disciples, a prayer that has entered into the spiritual life of Christ's disciples in all generations; as holy as the holy of holies, pervaded by the wondrous mystery of the relations of the Father and Son, and gathering his people into the same divine communion. Full of love, of tender sympathy, of yearning for his people in all ages, we may here, following humbly at a distance,

"Learn of Jesus Christ to pray."

THE result of the trial arising out of the dynamite outrages at Sarna has undoubtedly been a surprise to a large number of people, painful to some, very agreeable to others. It is difficult to speak of this miscarriage of justice—for miscarriage there certainly has been—in terms of ordinary criticism. There is no question that either from judge or jury, or both together, there has gone forth great encouragement to the party of liquor and dynamite, and a heavy blow and discouragement to the party of law, order and morality. What the next move, the next outrage of the liquor party will be, we cannot forecast. If life should be taken who would be responsible for it? Surely those who compassed the escape of a confessed dynamiter. As the gentleman against whom the first attempt was directed said to a friend of the writer a couple of days ago, "I go out not knowing but that I may be shot from behind some fence: my family are in constant terror for me and for themselves." Let the liquor interest and its friends everywhere beware,