

THE
Canadian Independent.

VOL. XXII.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1876.

No. 8.

THE MINISTRY FOR THE TIMES.—No. II.

BY A LAYMAN.

In referring to the ministers of the Gospel, and the necessity of their studying how to deliver their sermons as earnestly as they study to present the truth in a faithful and attractive manner, the writer noticed the fact that many believe that some of the Evangelists, who are so successful in their work, are endued with power from on high. And the statement was made that every Christian minister who is called of God for his work would receive a measure of the Holy Spirit if he placed himself in the attitude for its reception.

While the importance of cultivating the earnest style which will keep the attention of every class of hearers should not be lost sight of, the enduement of power from on high should be sought. This enduement from on high is arresting the attention of many who are engaged in Christian work. The late President Finney, of Oberlin, who was the first minister of the Broadway Tabernacle Congregational Church, New York, and who had been at one time an earnest Evangelist, said in an address before the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States :—

“ Christ had previously informed the disciples that without Him they could do nothing. When He gave them the commission to convert the world, He added, ‘ But tarry ye in Jerusalem TILL YE BE ENDUED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH ; ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence ; lo ! I send upon you the promise of the Father.’ This baptism of the Holy Ghost, this thing promised by the Father, this enduement of power from on high which Christ has promised to us, is the indispensable condition of performing the work which He has set before us.”

President Finney knew whereof he spoke. Personally, no doubt, he had great power. Probably he had a large share of that personal magnetism which acts upon men. But he states himself that he was endued with a greater power than the natural. In the address referred to (see the tract “ Power from on High—What is it ?”) he says :

“ I found myself endued with such power from on high that a few words dropped here and there to individuals were the means of their immediate conversion. My words seemed to fasten like barbed arrows in the souls of men. They cut like a sword. They broke the heart like a hammer. Multitudes can attest to this.”

To show that his power was not altogether that of personal ability or magnetism, he states that he sometimes found himself shorn of the power—unable to