

THE  
CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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VOL. XII.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1865.

No. 6.

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THE MISSIONARY DUTY OF THE HOUR.

For reasons given below, we refrain at present from further discussion of our missionary organisation. But we cannot let this month pass without calling attention to the practical duty which lies upon our churches, of doing their very utmost to fill the treasury of the Society. That is the duty of paramount importance, in any event. Our missionary brethren will suffer grievously if this is neglected. Whether we are to receive aid from the Colonial Missionary Society, or any other external source, or are to be left ourselves, it is equally necessary that we raise the largest possible missionary contribution from our own churches. And our decided conviction is, that this argument will tell more powerfully in Blomfield Street than any other in favour of our claims upon British aid. Brethren in the country tell those of the cities that they ought to do more; and the latter return the compliment. We have no doubt that both are right. Let us all do our utmost to have an unprecedented contribution for 1866.

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AN EDITORIAL EXPLANATION.

We have ventured in our present issue, to make a serious experiment upon our readers and contributors, by filling one-half of our space with the report of the English Union Meeting. To our valued contributors we can only say, that their articles are postponed on the self-evident principle, that in any periodical, questions of the passing hour must needs have precedence over those which are of equal interest at all times; and that several lucubrations of our own, written for this number, are also laid aside. If our readers require explanation, they have it as follows: 1. The American Civil War, with all the moral issues involved therein, and the relations of Britain and America, are to us the great questions of this decade of the nineteenth century; 2. The Boston Council furnished an occasion for the meeting face to face of representatives of very influential portions of these two nations; 3. The men whose utterances we here transcribe, are men of the first mark in our churches