

choose; but certainly the discussion by the Union of bringing our denomination into organic union with another ecclesiastical body, especially such bodies as claim to have authority over the churches, is an evidence of misunderstanding the object for which the Congregational Union was formed, and what is the extent of its power. The resolutions in reference to councils, passed in 1876, when attempted a few years ago to be made binding on the churches, were ordered to be placed by themselves in the Year Book. The resolutions contained very good advice for the churches, but any attempt on the part of the Union to make them laws for the churches was an excess of the power of that body, and a violation of the constitution by which they professed to be governed. Any minister who prefers being under the power of a Bishop, Presbytery or Conference is at liberty to unite with another denomination. But in the Congregational Union he has no power to vote our people, as so many sheep, into another fold, and place them under ecclesiastical authority. Organic union for Independent Churches is impracticable. Let us cultivate spiritual union—love and sympathy with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

St. Thomas.

W. H. ALLWORTH.

### THE CONFERENCE AND "THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT."

As the editor was unavoidably absent from the recent conference during the discussion on THE INDEPENDENT, I have asked his permission for the insertion of a short article thereupon. THE INDEPENDENT is not satisfactory to some of our friends, ministers and laymen also, as I understood. I should be surprised if it was, for although there have been received during the first three months of this year very many kindly words of approval and satisfaction, it is not to be supposed that the ideas of all the readers are alike, or that what pleases and entirely accords with the ideas of even a large section of our constituency will please all. The history of denominational journalism in Toronto, to go no farther, is illustrative of this. The Church of England people are not satisfied with the *Dominion Churchman*, so they must have the *Evangelical Churchman* also. The *Canada Presbyterian*, which has done such yeoman service to that body in the past, has not satisfied all its people,

and so to-day we have in addition the *Presbyterian Review*. The *Canadian Baptist* was too old fogey for some of the younger men, so a rival paper was started, which, in an existence of a few years, swallowed up a considerable sum of money, and then passed away. The *Christian Guardian* is the only Methodist paper; from the peculiar circumstances under which it is published, it would appear as almost a hopeless task to oppose it, and yet there is little doubt but that it will be attempted. Looking at these facts, it is not therefore to be wondered at that THE INDEPENDENT is not satisfactory to all, and is threatened, unless it shall mend its ways, with a rival.

The *specific* charges were of the most trivial character—the brevity of an article that ought to have been longer, and the insertion of only part of a communication. Each of these was capable of satisfactory explanation. The general charges were—general. I endeavoured to classify them, as well as I could, but found it difficult. THE INDEPENDENT did not contain enough denominational news—enough news from abroad—enough general news—it was not interesting. With reference to some of these points, I would suggest that the friends themselves—some of them at any rate—are to blame in this matter. What have they done? How have they helped to make the paper more interesting—what news of their churches? What interesting incidents? What contributions have they sent? The editor has more than once asked for help in this direction, and has had the experience of former editors, including myself, that there is far more disposition to complain than to help. To make THE INDEPENDENT better and more worthy of our churches—for the editor will be the first to say that it is far from his ideal—two things are needed, co-operation and money. Let the ministers contribute with their pens, and persuade their wealthy members to open their purses; *then* advance is possible; otherwise, it is useless talking about it. A weekly issue was suggested. Good! for that I have always wished, but there would, of course, be increased cost of production, and there must be some pay for the editor. I said at the conference that a guarantee of \$500 per year for three years would be needed; that would not be enough, I am afraid, to push the paper, pay for contributions, employ an agent to solicit subscriptions and advertisements; it would for the first