

# THE CANADA CHRISTIAN MONTHLY.

JUNE, 1874.

## Editorial.

### THORNS AND ROSES.

The editorial chair into which, reluctantly, we were pressed this time last year, like every chair on which poor mortals sit, has its thorns and its roses, though, we are free to confess that we have found the thorns fewer and the roses more numerous than we anticipated. As for the thorns one meets with in life who cares to make a collection of them, and to exhibit them to one's friends? The best thing one can do is to burn them. There are some thorns, however, green ones, which will not burn and thus pass out of sight, and to one of them in the way of explanation, we must make a passing reference.

Our greatest trouble about the editing of the CHRISTIAN MONTHLY is the want of time to do the work properly. When the "*Good News*" and kindred publications broke down on the death of their editor and proprietor, the Rev. Robert Kennedy, it was as clear as daylight to any one that examined Mr. Kennedy's books that every vestige of that good work must cease from amongst us unless some one took in hand to continue a portion of the work without looking for any remuneration from the publication. Were the conductors of the CHRISTIAN MONTHLY depending on it for any support the work would break down in a few months. In these circumstances a few ministers undertook to do the writing without any other reward than the pleasure of keeping alive a

witness for the truth in our villages and rural parishes. One of these ministers, a well-known author, whose contributions to the CHRISTIAN MONTHLY have attracted the notice of the weekly press, has been for nearly six months laid aside from all work in the solitude of the sick-room, and the burden of supplying original literary matter has therefore pressed very heavily on the shoulders of us who miss so much the presence and the pen of our beloved brother. For the reader must bear in mind that the editor and contributors of this monthly, have sermons to preach, prayer meetings to superintend, the young to instruct, the sick to visit, and church courts to attend, ere time can be got to write for the press. It is easy to understand, therefore, that much of the writing that you, kind reader, glance over at your ease in broad daylight, is done with wearied hand after the pastoral duties of the day are over, and when most of people are in their beds. But there is at present no remedy for this, and month after month we must issue our monthly, regretting that it cannot get more attention, that books for review, and notices of magazines, and manuscripts that are half finished, must wait till there is spare time from urgent duty, till there is less of sickness, less of public and private work. That is our worst thorn (which makes us long at times to leave a chair which we cannot fill as it ought to be filled), and with