

## CANADA BAPTIST MAGAZINE,

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## JOHN BUNYAN :

## REMARKS ON HIS GENIUS AND WRITINGS.

Not only is the fame of this extraordinary man celebrated through all the world, wherever books are read, but his memory is still cherished with peculiar love and veneration in the place where he exercised his ministry. At Bedford, and throughout the county, his name is as "ointment poured forth." His early impiety and irreligion; the strong emotions of conscience struggling in his breast; his diligence and patient endurance, after his character became decided; and his steady adherence to the cause and interest of his Saviour, in the midst of a corrupted populace, a depraved magistracy, and a vindictive clergy, are traits of character which call forth our admiration, and which peculiarly fitted him for the performance of extraordinary service in the Kingdom of his Redeemer.

With the principal events of his life most of our readers are probably acquainted. It is not our intention to detail them here; but to present a few thoughts on that singular genius

with which it pleased God to endow him, and by which he was enabled to render so great a benefit to the church as has resulted from the most popular of his writings.

Bunyan has been styled the Shakespeare of theology: like the bard of Avon, he had no equal among his contemporaries, and has no rival among his successors. But a higher honour belongs to him than unsanctified genius can ever procure. He has not only delighted and astonished thousands in successive generations by the creations of his fancy, but has left impressions of piety upon the hearts of many. He stands alone in the walk he has chosen, or rather to which he was directed by a heavenly impulse; for though others after him have tried their skill at allegory, none have ever approached the excellencies of his PILGRIM'S PROGRESS. The fame of Bunyan must be lasting, because his pilgrim embodies in himself, not the accidental, nor the occasional feelings of our nature, but the