

THE CANADA CHRISTIAN MONTHLY.

AUGUST, 1877.

Editorial.

THE RELATION BETWEEN A SOUND CREED AND A GOOD LIFE.

THERE are not wanting in our day many who deny any living, intimate, connection between life and doctrine. Their cry is "Give us plenty of Charity, but none of your dogmas." Their maxim is "An ounce of Charity is worth a ton of doctrine." Their poet says:—

"For modes of faith let graceless zealots fight,
His can't be wrong whose life is in the right."

Following out these principles an appeal is made to all those Christian Churches who hold creeds, either to shorten their creeds, or abolish them altogether, and to make a man's life the only thing to be regarded in training and commissioning preachers, or in edifying hearers.

It is not to be denied but some cause has been given for raising this cry. There are to be found churches, congregations, and individuals who place the whole business of religion in holding faithfully and firmly, a set of doctrinal opinions without making any very faithful or firm attempt to reduce these to practice in the duties of every day life. These parties are content with an artificial orthodoxy, a dry light in the mind, which sheds no warm influence on private or public life. But the question at issue here, is not,—May there be