

# The Canadian Independent.

"ONE IS YOUR MASTER, EVEN CHRIST, AND ALL YE ARE BRETHREN."

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## THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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IT is a matter for congratulation that the debt on our mission society has been wiped out. Now let the District Committees arrange for live missionary meetings this winter. It is easier to keep out of debt than to get out when once in.

WE learn that the Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, formerly pastor of the Northern Congregational Church of this city, has received and accepted a call to one of the Presbyterian churches in Galt. We wish our brother the greatest success in his new sphere of labour.

MASSACHUSETTS is threatened with one of the greatest evils imaginable. The notorious General Butler is the candidate of four or five conventions for its Governorship. We hope the people of the good old State will be wise enough to keep him in his proper place.

WE see that Tasmanian Congregational Union has passed a resolution to celebrate the jubilee of the introduction of Congregationalism into the colony at its next meeting in March, 1880. We should be pleased to send some message of greeting to the brethren on the other side of the world on that occasion.

OUR readers will bear in mind that next Sunday is the day set apart for special prayer and collection for our college. Dr. Wilkes' letter in another column will gladden all the friends of the College. We will make our requests and bequests next Sunday with thanksgiving. We hope to hear of large collections.

WE are glad to hear that the Rev. Duncan McGregor, late of Liverpool, N.S., is about to visit these western provinces. We trust he may be induced to settle in our midst. There are churches that want good men, and although we wish well to our friends down by the sea, yet we are glad to welcome back one of our devoted and successful pastors.

THE "Christian World" and "Fountain" have published some damaging remarks on Dr. Talmage's lecture tour in England. There is but little doubt that the Doctor's visit to the "Old Land" has effectually injured his usefulness. It was too apparent that he was engaged in a huge financial speculation, and the wares he had to sell were of the poorest description.

FROM our English papers we learn that the Wilts and East Somerset Congregational Union held its autumnal meeting in Bradford-on-Avon on the 9th of September. It was reported that the Union supports fifteen missionary pastors, and its income is not far from fifteen hundred pounds sterling. Papers were read by Revs. W. Clarkson, B.A., W. H. Stent, F. W. Clarke and others.

WE see that R. W. Dale of Birmingham has been preaching lately a series of Sunday evening sermons on "Morality." Probably the Carr's Lane people do not need such addresses any more than the members of other congregations. We fancy that it would do no church harm to hear something pretty often of honesty, purity, truthfulness and so on. There is always a pretty strong tendency to divorce religion from life.

HACKNEY COLLEGE began its session for 1879-80 on the 10th of September. Dr. Clement Clemance, on the occasion read a very good paper on the work of the ministry. He maintained that the preacher of the future must be specially a Bible expositor. Dr. Clemance is right. He might have added, however, that the preacher will have to be an interpreter of human life. The two must go together, the Bible throwing light on life, and life on the Bible.

BERNE in Switzerland has recently been the scene of a "Lord's Day Congress." Its purpose was to promote Sunday observance. Several distinguished men were present and took part in the proceedings. We do not see, however, any scheme proposed for the furtherance of the objects of the Conference. There is no doubt that the Sabbath question will claim the attention of our churches a great deal in the coming years. We must handle it earnestly. It is forced more and more on our notice day by day.

THE Bishop of Manchester, Dr. Fraser, is always doing something characteristic. Preaching recently at a harvest festival in Preston, Lancashire, he remarked that he understood that a portion of the collection was for the completing of the baptistry and the tiling of the chancel floor. He asked the vicar if there was pressing poverty in Preston, not to undertake that work then. He spoke very severely of the strife for gain and the heaping up of luxuries which prevails in the land. The bishop is an out-spoken, practical preacher.

THE classes who advocate the "rag baby" in Canada are thus summarized by the London "Advertiser." First, we have those who are so ignorant that they do not comprehend the question in all its bearings, and who will jump at any panacea of the demagogue to relieve them of the financial ills they suffer. Second, those who are in debt and desire to rid themselves of their obligations by an expansion of the currency and a consequent cheapening of money. Third, those who realize that an abundance of currency would make money cheap, but who calculate that they are shrewd enough to "stand from under" when the great crash comes.

PREACHING at a recent installation service in Vermont, the Rev. Dr. Bellows of New York, a representative Unitarian, spoke of declining from the "deep and animating faith of the Puritan forefathers." He added: "We try to make science, art, aesthetic culture, and the like, do for us, as a people, what faith in God as a living Spirit and in ourselves as God's children only can do." The tendency to which Dr. Bellows refers is a widespread one. It would be well if all were to consider these words of his: "A lack of faith in God as Jesus represents Him, and a lack of faith in the power and efficacy of prayer, must be surely followed by spiritual decay and death, and morality will not long survive."

THERE is a very restless feeling among the Mormons at Salt Lake City, owing to the legal net that is being drawn around the polygamists. The decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Reynolds did not

seem a decisive blow, as a part of every jury were necessarily Mormons; but there has been a change in the territorial law relating to jurors that promises to prove serious. The Mormon Legislature enacted the code of criminal procedure of California, not knowing that it contained a provision for the appointment of triers to determine the competence of a juror in a given case. It is now in the power of the prosecuting attorney to remove all Mormons from a jury about to try an indictment for polygamy. The law cannot be repealed by the Mormon Legislature, because the governor has an absolute veto power.

THE sword of ecclesiastical discipline is once again unsheathed. But when is it not? Its latest victims are the Second Baptist Church, of St. Louis, and its pastor, the Rev. Dr. Boyd. The crimes of this church and their minister are many, chief among them being disregarding the close communion practice which prevails in the American churches, and worshipping on a certain occasion with a Jewish congregation. Now church and minister are charged before the St. Louis Baptist Association with heterodoxy and irregularity in practice, and by a vote of 27 to 17 the fellowship of the Association is withdrawn from them. We rejoice over this case. It is a good thing to see that seventeen votes out of forty-four are opposed to exclusion and narrowness. It is a good thing to know that acts like this will in the long run recoil on the heads of those who advocate the tenets of bigotry and sectarianism and must effectually help the cause of freedom and catholicity. "The blood of the martyrs" has ever been "the seed of the Church," and any fighting against a worthy and true principle only brings it more and more into prominence and regard. We hope that the fruits of this St. Louis action will be seen ere long in the loosing of the bonds which have hitherto been very tight among our esteemed American and Canadian Baptist brethren.

PERSONS interested in the liquor traffic are in the habit of asserting that the prohibitory law now in force in the State of Maine has proved a failure; that there is as much drinking done there now in secret as was done in public before the law came into operation; and that the proper way to diminish drunkenness is to afford the greatest possible facility and encouragement to the open and public sale of liquor. In reply to such assertions an ex-Mayor of Portland furnishes the following comparative statistics. If the prohibitory law has been the means of effecting the wonderful changes indicated by his figures it is an abuse of language to speak of it as a failure. Ex-Mayor Kingsbury says: "In 1830, in Maine, there were 2,000 open bars, 460 taverns with open bars, and nearly every grocery store kept the article on sale. The estimated sales amounted to nearly \$12,000,000. Now there is not an open bar in Maine; and no tavern or grocery keeps it for sale, and the estimated sales do not reach half a million. In 1830 the use of liquor was nearly universal. It was found in every house. Now it is a rare and exceptional case. The large majority of the people are total abstainers. Public sentiment is so strong in that direction that even the political parties are compelled to make their nominations for office in obedience to it. In 1830 there were 10,000 persons (one out of every 45 of the population) who were inebriated and 200 deaths from delirium tremens. But now not one in three hundred is a drunkard, and there are not fifty deaths annually from delirium tremens. These facts are but a few illustrations of the many that might be given of the marvellous changes wrought out by the combined workings of the prohibition law, moral suasion, and public opinion."