

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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AN interesting meeting of the Directors, Shareholders and friends of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT was held in this city on Tuesday evening last. Representatives of all the city churches were present. All were agreed that the weekly could be more useful to the churches than a monthly, and it was resolved by those present to push this part of our denominational work forward and make it a still greater success. The Directors are glad to announce that Mr. H. J. Clark of the city has consented to take the Editorship of the paper at the beginning of the new year. The Directors are confident that a vigorous canvass will be made in all the churches, and made now. Remember that all new subscribers will get the paper free for the remainder of the year.

THE Duke of Norfolk is a Romanist. In gratitude for the birth of a son he engaged to build ten churches, and actually laid the foundation stones of four before the child was ten days old. His example may well be emulated by those who possess a true Christian faith.

DR. SOMERVILLE met with the same success in Marseilles as he had in Nimes and other places in France during his evangelistic tour. It is said that his work in Nimes has led the Christians of that city to begin a settled mission for the people. The same has occurred in other towns of France where Dr. Somerville has preached.

THE Boers of the Transvaal are threatening to resist the re-establishment of British authority in that country. In one place they have formed an immense laager and are preparing for a desperate resistance. Chief Morosi has also refused to submit to British authority. There may, as a consequence, be some fighting, but the result cannot be doubtful.

HERE is a paragraph that ought to be copied by every religious paper in the land. The Western Michigan Methodist Conference at its recent meeting expressed its sentiments on the use of tobacco by the unanimous adoption of the following resolutions: 1. That hereafter no young man using tobacco in any form, coming as a candidate for the ministry, shall be received into this Conference; 2. That those members of this Conference already addicted to the use of

tobacco are exhorted to desist from it in public and when in the company of persons who do not use it; 3. That all circuits and missions are advised not to send delegates to this Conference hereafter who are users of tobacco; 4. That no local preacher will be ordained an elder who uses tobacco.

A CORRESPONDENT of "The English Independent" writes of what he calls "A new departure in church membership." A Baptist church was recently opened in Bowdon, Manchester, Dr. Maclaren preaching on the occasion. By a clause in the trust deed, provision is made for the admission into fellowship of persons belonging to various denominations; but they are not permitted to vote at church meetings unless they are Baptists. The purpose is to make certain of the continuance of the church as a Baptist one, and yet give all Christians the privileges, or some of the privileges of membership. The method is not a bad one. We can suggest a better one, however; only that denominationalism will not stand in its presence. That is, to admit all who give credible evidence of faith in Christ to all the advantages and benefits as well as responsibilities, that any church can present to them.

THAT Independent of the Independents, Rev. J. Baldwin Brown, is protesting again. The Congregational Union of England and Wales, at its recent meeting, referring to the difficulties attending the removal and re-settlement of ministers, passed a resolution recommending the County Unions "to appoint Confidential Committees, with which vacant churches and movable ministers may correspond." Mr. Brown objected to the scheme. He insists on leaving the churches and ministers alone to do their own business, and he has a terrible dread of committees in general, and confidential committees in particular. Mr. Hanay, the Secretary of the Union, said that he had been doing the kind of work mentioned for a long time, and wanted to get rid of it. It is difficult to deal satisfactorily with the matter, there is no doubt. We have no faith in committee management, and it looks as if congregational affairs in England were suffering from such management. But what are you going to do? After all, the mass of the members of our churches in England will take care of themselves. They are not likely to become willing slaves to committee-men or anybody else.

THE Rev. A. J. Bray, in the "Spectator," referring to the resolution passed by the Y.M.C.A. Convention requesting ministers to preach a sermon to young men on the text "The moral young man weighed in the balance and found wanting," says, "I wonder where they found that text or that sentiment. Certainly they did not find it in the Bible. They seem to have forgotten that it was Belshazzar, the young *roue*, that was thus "weighed and found wanting," or, rather "numbered, weighed, and divided." He was in no way a "moral young man," and I confess I do not see where the analogy comes in. The subject as announced is simply a travesty of Scripture. We cannot afford to denounce, or sneer at, or undervalue morality in these days. We have achieved a fatal success in our effort to divorce morals and religion—and in this age of avarice and debauchery, and scepticism, the mere announcement that moral young men, when, "weighed in the balances," are found wanting, can do nothing but harm. We have work enough on our hands to preach to those who are not moral, and it is evident that a little more practical common sense imported into Y.M.C.A. Conventions would be a clear gain to the community." We are rejoiced that there is a good deal of force in Brother Bray's remarks.

THE week of prayer on behalf of young men was, we are glad to understand, very generally observed with services both appropriate and instructive. In Toronto the work was greatly assisted by the presence and the very acceptable labours of the Rev. George Muller of Bristol. In the course of the services the following report was presented, giving a view of the Y. M. C. Association work throughout the world:—Thirty-five years have passed since the first Young Men's Christian Association was formed in the city of London. Since then organizations have multiplied, until to-day they exist in all quarters of the world. They are distributed as follows.

United States and Canada.....	1,100
Great Britain.....	300
Germany.....	300
Holland.....	300
Switzerland.....	180
Sweden.....	65
France.....	45
Other nations of Europe.....	50
Australia, Spain, Japan, and China.....	60

Total.....2,400

A significant feature of the above statistics is that the work is not confined to nominally Christian countries. Already we have reports of Associations in Cairo, Beyrout, Smyrna, Damascus, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Calcutta, Hong Kong, and Yokohama. The membership of these Associations approximates 200,000. Every three years a World's Convention is held. The last Triennial Conference met at Geneva, Switzerland, in August, 1878. Eleven nations were represented by 207 delegates. The American delegation numbers forty-one persons. The Conference appointed an international Central Committee, with a quorum at Geneva, and one member from each country represented.

SOME of the bishops and other dignitaries of the English Established Church are turning their attention to their Nonconformist brethren, and not in the way of denunciation and abuse either. The Bishop of Manchester is "a character," and at a recent diocesan conference, he suggested a resolution in the following terms. "That this Conference desires to promote a friendly recognition of those of our dissenting brethren who will consent to meet us on the ground of our common Christianity, and expresses an earnest wish to cultivate friendly relations with them and to co-operate with them on any possible platform of Christian work: that in the opinion of this Conference it is desirable that the Convocation of this province (of York) should consider the question of the comprehension of Nonconformists with a view to devising the best means of terminating our dissensions, and establishing unity and working harmony between all sections of earnest Christian people in the land." The Convention of the Diocese of Peterborough does not go quite so far. The Dean of Peterborough proposed a resolution inviting delegates from the orthodox dissenting bodies to a conference with a view to the consideration of terms of re-union with the Established Church. An amendment was offered and carried. It is as follows: "That in full recognition of the sin and scandal of divisions among Christians, and in humble consciousness that they have been fomented and encouraged by many short-comings on the part of the English Church, this Conference would hail with the utmost satisfaction any proposals tending toward home re-union without compromising scriptural truth and apostolic order; and that, while unable to perceive that the time has arrived for formal communication between the authorities of the Church and delegates from Nonconformists, it is of opinion that special attention should be directed to a possible concordat with Wesleyan Methodists."