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All communications for the paper, items of news, correspondence, etc., to be addressed to the Editors, Box 2648, P. O.,

All subscriptions, current or back, notices of change of address, and other matters connected with the business of the paper, to be addressed to the Business Manager, Box 2648, P. O., Toronto.

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TORONTO, JULY 7, 1881.

# PERSONAL.

This number begins a new volume of the Canadian Independent. For eighteen months the editorial work has been in my hands. That it has not been all that it might have been, no one feels more fully than myself. Such as it has been, however, it has been done freely, and for love to the cause of Canadian Congregationalism. I had fully de-termined to give up the duties at the close of the last volume; other, and it seemed to me, more important work, was claiming all my attention; but when the Union met, so much kindly pressure was brought to bear upon me by those whom I highly esteem, that I had to re-consider and finally forego my intention. A strong inducement to this was the association with myself in the editorial management of one who has helped me much during the eighteen months of my incumbency, the Rev. John Burton, B.D. His good judgment and ready pen, will, I am sure, help to make the INDEPENDENT more what we all desire to see it

Editorial services will continue to be gratuitous. So also now is the business management. The financial outlook required this sacrifice, for sacrifice of time and trouble in Opportunity will be truth it is. given, as heretofore, for the courteous expression of views in our columns within the limits of the "Declaration of Faith and Order' adopted by our Union. For these the editor may not feel himself personally responsible, at the same time he will hold himself at liberty to express his own honest convictions. In the very nature of things the editorial chair is somewhat autocratic, therefore should the scissors or waste-paper basket be occasionally used, correspondents should remember the many exigencies of the case, and not take such action in high

We, speaking for Mr. Burton and myself, will aim to be impartial and regardful of the feelings of all, at the same time we shall be fearlessly true, and not hesitate to call a spade a spade if needs be. trust that many of our friends, ministerial and lay, will extend to us a helping hand. To all friends of Congregationalism we would say, the paper is as much yours as ours. We are serving you, help us; you can help by sending items of news regarding our churches, or brief articles on any matters of interest to our people, and from those who are willing to aid in that line, editorials, which we shall ask permission to insert with the distinguishing mark of an asterisk; by extending our sub- in the returns for 1870.

The Canadian Independent scription list, and using your influence to have the dollars of your fellow-subscribers sent punctually to our business manager, Mr. W. Revell. If these things are done, the INDEPEND-ENT will soon be in a position to enlarge its columns, and to minister more worthily than heretofore to the upbuilding of our churches, and the many excellent works with which hey are associated.

HENRY J. CLARK.

## THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Has held its eighty eventh anniversary, and found still larger fields of labour and need for augmented effort and sacrifice on the part of its supporters. So must it ever be with all truly Christian work, which can never rest idly until the whole earth be filled with His praise, and every heart with His love. The truly Catholic spirit of this virtually Congregational Society was illustrated by the fact that the chairman of the meeting, the Earl of Aberdeen, is an avowed member of the Established Church; he alluded, in his brief address, to this fact; reminding the friends of another and even more thorough example of true missionary catholicity on the part of Bishop Patteson. The island of Lifu, one of the loyalty group in the South Seas, was occupied by the agents of this Society. Some friends in their zeal seem fully as anxious to make proselytes as Christians, and the good Bishop was invited to take charge of Lifu in the Episcopalian interest. He declined, satisfied if the gospel was preached, though wanting the sectarian stripe. own city and country could bear more of the good Bishop's spirit; this is the spirit which pervades the London Missionary Society.

The Society has adopted a system of

### DECENNIAL REPORTS

from its agents. The year 1880 was the first year of such review, and the annual meeting of 1881, following the requirement from the agents, reviews the last decade of the Society's operations. The following items are of special interest:—The staff of European missionaries has decreased during the decade from 160 to 139. When it is noted that thirteen years ago the number was 175, the reduction will be even more marked. Yet this contraction. though cause for regret, does not mark contraction in the Society's Missionary churches have been taught true independency, the only independency we are now called to struggle for, namely, self-support. Thus, in the ten years reviewed, ten churches in South Africa and eleven in the West Indies have become entirely independent of the Society's monetary aid, and native preachers have largely multiplied. The returns for 1880 were not complete at the date of the annual meeting, but the following results may be given as a minimum:-

Native ordained pastors in 1870..... 106.
" " 1880..... 371
Native preachers......1870..... 1,644
" " 1880..... 4,529

These returns do not include the self-supporting churches already mentioned, and which are reckoned

#### COLLEGE TRAINING

for the native ministry is a question of growing importance to the missionary directors, as indeed it must be to every church and denomination that intends to do the Master's work. No one as yet has had the hardihood to talk about "consecrated ignorance." The converted heathen cry for an educated ministry and must have it. The church that suffers degradation in the pulpit degrades itself thereby. The training schools in the South Sea Islands have nearly 200 young men aspiring to the office of pastor or evangelist. The course of study there extends over four years, special care being given to Scripture interpretation. The college at Antananarivo in Madagascar, is fully alive to the responsibility which rests upon it in connection with the future of the Christian church in the island.

#### FEMALE MISSIONARY WORK.

has had special and growing attention during the past ten years. Woman has been exalted to her true position in proportion as Christianity has advanced. Heathen systems, however fair, have never equalled that old Hebrew symbol, which, under the figure of the building up of woman from the rib of the man, expresses, as old Matthew Henry puts it, "not out of his head to top him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected by him, and near his heart to be loved by him." Very different from the cultivated Brahmin's maxim, that one Brahmin is equal in value to a hundred women. The peculiar customs of the East, especially in India and in Mahomedan countries, shut out the women from all male missionary influence. Even in Palestine the cisciples wondered that the Saviour conversed with the Samaritan woman who was so lost to decency as to be found at the well at the noontide-hour talking with a man. According to the enlightened Rabbi, a man should not speak in public to his own wife! Much more exclusive are Hindoo and Islam requirements. How are these excluded ones to gain a knowledge of the woman's promised seed? So far as health and domestic claims permit, the wives of our missionaries have nobly aided with their labours, but it has long been manifest that such aid, however valuable, is utterly inadequate, therefore special efforts Twelve have been found necessary female missionaries re now in the field, one in Africa, two in Madagascar, three in China and six in India. In view of the growing requirements of this work the directors of the Society have resolved upon erecting a Zenana Home in one of the cities of Bengal; the building is to be two storied. The upper story is to be set apart for the use of the European ladies engaged in Zenana and school teaching, the ground floor for young native teachers who are being trained for the service, and for whom a home, under the protection and influence of the missionaries, is desirable.

## **RESULTS**

are indicated somewhat as follows: Mere numbers give little indication of the work dore. Because seed of the work dore. Because seed in this Dominion must be fast growing in sown does not at once appear above self-censciousness. A few weeks ago

the soil, we are not to infer that the sower has toiled in vain. Christian progress among ourselves is slow; prejudices are not readily overcome; heathenism is not to be conquered in a day, nor customs a thousand years old to be at once overturned. Yet the following facts are to be noticed:

1. The organized opposition to Christianity on the part of the leaders of heathenism, makes manifest that Christianity is making isself felt. It is too strong to be despised.

2. Mission schools are growing in power; this gives hope for the com-

ing years.

3. Female education is making comparatively rapid strides. the mothers are gained, the children will not be without the words of life and salvation.

4. The people no longer shun the missionary, but come to hear; more, they have learned to respect the bearers of the message, "Jesus died for you,"

"I see," said a missionary to a

Ujiji chief, "Your men have got eyes and ears, just look at us. If we do good, believe your own eyes." A year after that same chief came voluntarily and said : " Master, we have looked at you with our eyes for a whole year. We see that you pay every man his due, and speak truth always. Since you have lived here we can go to the market without fear of being robbed of our goods, and all the people say that you are good.'

Is not this true missionary work? Can we look at home and say the same concerning ourselves?

May we reconsecrate ourselves and ours to this work of Christian missions!

" Lord of the living harvest That whitens o'er the plain, Where angels soon shall gather Their sheaves of golden grain, Accept these hands to labour, These hearts to trust and love; And deign with them to hasten Thy kingdom from above."

THE attempted assassination of President Garfield on Saturday morning last, fell like a bolt from a clear sky upon an astonished people. The details have been so fully given in the secular papers that we need not dwell upon them. What we would more specially note is, that while the act, so far as at present can be seen, is the act of one man, a political fanatic, and that no party or body of men is identified with it, yet it is the natural outcome of what has long been plainly a dangerous spot in American politics—the "spoils system." To the victors belong the spoils is the cry and practice, but the victors are too many for the spoils. It will be good out of evil if this system, so fraught with danger, receives its death-blow from this terrible ex-perience. Meanwhile, at the time of our writing, the President's recovery is hopeful. God grant it. Thousands of hearts outside the United States have joined with its citizens in prayer to save his life from such an ending.

We cut the following from the Canadian Spectator. The italics in the last sentence are ours:-

"The Congregational denomination