

The Canadian Independent.

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

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Topics of the Week.

REV. MR. HAMMOND, having closed his labours at London, left on Saturday afternoon for Strathroy for one week, prior to going to Montreal. An immense throng attended him to the station, where religious services were held until the train departed.

FROM the criminal statistics just published by the Government of Italy it appears that in the first nine months of 1879 there were no fewer than 2,900 murders or attempts at murder committed in the kingdom being an average of ten and two-thirds a day. In the same period of three-quarters of a year there occurred 1,900 cases of highway robbery, of the perpetrators of which as many as 800 had entirely escaped the hands of justice.

AT the close of the devotional meeting at the Church of Christian Endeavour, Brooklyn, on the evening of the 11th ult., a letter was read from Dr. Edward Eggleston tendering his resignation, on the ground of failing health. In accepting the resignation the church in a series of resolutions, expressed its heartfelt sympathy with one who had been both a pastor and a friend, in the affliction through which an overruling Providence has thus seen fit to terminate a relation which, from the beginning, has been so uniformly pleasant and prosperous.

THE Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in the United States was organized in 1870. In the course of its first year \$7,000 were raised by its instrumentality; in 1872, \$27,000; in 1876, \$96,000; in 1877, \$124,000; and in 1878, the last yet reported, as much as \$136,000, or nearly one-third of the entire income of the Foreign Board. This is very encouraging, and shews what women can do when they are in earnest and set about a matter with their characteristic zeal. In Canada we have a similar institution connected with the Presbyterian Church. It has been fairly successful, and we have no doubt will in coming years be greatly more so.

THE statistics of the United Brethren Church, published for 1880, are as follows: Organized churches, 4,356; increase, 169. Members, 154,796; increase, 2,365. Ministers, 2,217; increase, 65. Salaries of ministers, \$343,065.06; decrease, \$3,350.45. Ministerial aid, \$2,771.06; increase, \$329.13. Collected for missions, \$35,544.87; increase, \$1,657.91. Collected for bishops, \$6,021.88; increase, \$224.88. Church-erection, \$1,031.78; increase, \$687.41. Sunday school collections, \$43,258.81; increase, \$3,876.45. General Sunday school fund, \$1,521.62; increase, \$195.81. Church building expenses, \$229,824.27; increase, \$42,840.50. Educational fund, \$11,290.85; increase, \$1,095.93. Biblical Seminary, \$2,231.23; decrease, \$1,024.14. Meeting-houses, 2,152; increase, 50. Parsonages, 319; increase, 11. Sunday schools, 3,268; increase, 208. Children in Sunday schools, 159,925. Total of all moneys, \$661,662.56.

THE following appears in a letter sent by Bishop Colenso to Mrs. E. M. Southey: "My only hope now is in the English people, who will, if I am not greatly mistaken, be astonished and ashamed to hear that in the name of England a polygamist Englishman—Mr. John Dunn—has been appointed to be king of the largest of thirteen satrapies into which Zululand has been divided. It has thus cost eight millions of money and two thousand five hundred of our own lives, white and black; and after killing 10,000 of a noble race for defending their fatherland, we, a great Christian people, advance the standard of civilization

and morality and Christianity by setting up a polygamist king. I do hope the English people will be aroused to compel the Government to undo this part of the present arrangement." The Bishop also repels stories of Cetewayo's cruelty as calumnies, and hopes he may be restored to the throne he filled so well."

THE annual meeting of the Paris Young Men's Christian Association, recently held at the English Chapel, Rue Royale, was most interesting. The Rev. Dr. Forbes, Vice-President, presided, and among the speakers were fifteen ministers. Their addresses—which had to be restricted to a limit of five minutes each—were all earnest and practical. After prayer by the Rev. C. E. Paterson, there were addresses by the Rev. Chairman, Revs. A. Mackay, M.A., Theodore Monod, Paul Cook, one of the founders of the earliest French Association, and its oldest member and first president; Dr. Mitchell, of Chicago; Dr. Cunningham Geikie of Christ Church, Neuilly; W. McAll, F.L.S.; and G. Th. Dodds, of the McAll Mission; Dr. Hitchcock, W. Arthur, M.A., Secretary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society; and D. A. de Moulpied of the Wesleyan Church, Rue Koquepine. Several hymns were sung at intervals with the aid of a special choir, and a vote of thanks to the chairman and the president closed the proceedings.

IN New York there is a Society for the Suppression of Vice, which has for some years past been doing a good and effective work. Up to last year it had arrested 300 agents engaged in the sale of licentious and obscene literature. Carrying out the laws for the preservation of good morals, it had confiscated over 21,000 pounds of books and letter press of that description; 14,000 pounds of plates; over 200,000 pictures, 236,000 circulars, songs, etc., and 35,000 letters. This may well be described as a good record, and yet all that has as yet been accomplished has scarcely touched the great and festering sore. Far more of such literature is circulated not only in the States but in Canada than most have the slightest suspicion of. Besides, there is a certain tone of thought and feeling running through a large amount of what is called both pure and high class literature, which has all the injurious effects of what are more properly stigmatized as obscene. Not only are some of our high class novelists, and one or two of the popular poets of the day, not so careful of their language and the character of their scenes and heroes and heroines as they ought to be, their own lives are all on the side of what is loose and immoral. Both by precept and example, they seem to indicate that it is quite the thing for husbands to prefer their neighbours' wives to their own, and for wives to go and do likewise. Then the minute details given by the great mass of the newspapers of all which takes place in our courts of law or at coroner's inquests and so forth, tend in the same direction, and do more harm to the morals and of manners the young, and the old as well, than any amount of that gross obscene literature which if circulated at all must be circulated on the sly. We venture to say that the reports of the Beecher trial alone did more to injure the morals of the community than all the labours of the 300 agents whom the society we speak of has secured and punished. Then we have abortion cases and rape and assault trials, etc., all which, in all their most minute and most shocking details, have to be served up to the community as regularly as their breakfasts, and all on the plea that newspapers are bound to give the facts. Facts! One might as well wade up the common sewers of a great city and then give the public all the horrible details of their very real, but very disgusting pilgrimage. We need not give instances. Everyone remembers, and could indicate, such, *ad nauseam*.

NYASSA, AND THE LAKE MISSIONS IN AFRICA.

We are sure our readers will thank us for the following account of the missionary operations of the Free Church of Scotland in the African lake region, as given in the December number of the Free Church "Record":

The Foreign Missions Committee has now formally appointed to its staff, as engineer missionary at Nyassa, Mr. James Stewart, C.E., of the Public Works Department of the Government of India. Mr. Stewart being an official of high Christian character and missionary zeal, resolved some time ago to spend his Indian furlough in the honorary service of the Free Church at Livingstonia. The consent of the Government of India was obtained to his accepting some acknowledgment of his work during the second year of that furlough. And now he has become so interested in the Christianization of the Nyassa people, and has proved so essential to our mission, that he has resigned his position in the Indian service, a course rendered the easier by financial reductions there. Mr. Stewart will be second to Dr. Laws, the present head of the mission, and receive the same allowance as a medical missionary. Miss Waterston must long ago have begun operations at Livingstonia, so that the superior staff is now complete.

And not a day before such extension was wanted. To the same meeting at which Mr. Stewart was appointed there came an appeal from our brethren, the Directors of the London Missionary Society, to send trusty messengers, at their expense, to investigate the fate of Messrs. Hoare and Hutley, their missionaries at Ujiji, on the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika, from whom no intelligence has been received since the 20th January last. By the last mail of October, Dr. Laws and Mr. James Stewart were at once communicated with. Following or accompanying the death of Dr. Mullens and other members of their staff, any injury to these two agents would be disastrous. But the Arab slave-dealers have no love for the messengers of the gospel of Christ, although we trust even these enemies of the race are responsible for nothing more than a break in the communication.

This is not all. Victoria Nyanza, from which the Nile issues, is to the north of Tanganyika, as Tanganyika is 150 miles north-west of our own Lake Nyassa. The Church Missionary Society, after incredible expense, hardship, and the loss by murder and fever of several agents, had succeeded in establishing what seemed to be a prosperous mission at the coast of Uganda, on the north of Nyanza. King Mtesa himself, putting from him the Arabs who were fast bringing him and his people over to Islam, acted as interpreter to the missionaries when, in the Swaheli language of the east coast, they preached to the inhabitants of Uganda and around the lake. All of a sudden the scene has changed. The French or Belgian Jesuits have reached that place, as well as other hopeful missions south of the Zambesi. They have sown distrust in the king's mind, leading him to believe that Colonel Gordon, as a pasha of the khedive, means to annex his country, and that the Church missionaries are allied with that truly Christian officer. An Arabic letter from Dr. Kirk is further said to have roused the savage nature of the chief. Taking the Arab slavers to his counsel, he declares that a kindly letter sent to him by Lord Salisbury is a forgery, and that the Protestant missionaries are impostors. Meanwhile the mission is scattered, some of its agents having been sent to Egypt to assure the king that there is no danger, three having been sent to the south of the lake, and three being detained at Uganda.