

The Canadian Independent.

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

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All Subscriptions and advertisements should be sent to the Business Manager, Rev. J. B. Silcox, 140 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Ont. Subscription \$1 per annum, payable in advance. Remit by Money Order, Draft, or Registered Letter. We want an active Agent in each Church. Advertising rates sent on application.

It pains us exceedingly to dun people. But our present plan of mailing compels us to do so. The \$1 after your name weekly reminds you that you owe the printer. We can't help it; but you can. Please remit the amount by return mail, and your label will show that you read a paper that is paid for. You will enjoy it much more, and we will be spared much silent grief. Will the churches in arrear for year books please remit?

MR. O. B. FROTHINGHAM'S Independent Society in New York City is to cease its existence after the 1st of May next. Mr. Frothingham resigns at that time, and there is nothing to keep the organization together.

PREMILLENNARIANISM and the *morale* of choirs were discussed at the Susquehanna Congregational Association in Oswego, N. Y., on the 4th and 5th. T. K. Beecher was prominent in the discussion of the choir question.

LEO XIII., notwithstanding serious obstacles, is successful in achieving some reforms. He is doing what he can to abolish sinecures and to effect retrenchment in expenditure at headquarters. He proposes, moreover, to remodel the entire system of ecclesiastical offices in Rome.

NEAL DOW has been charged with circulating a story not at all creditable to Mr. Spurgeon. Now, Mr. Dow comes out with the statement that he never said anything bad about Mr. Spurgeon. What he said was about some distinguished preacher in England; but he mentioned no name. Somebody else has introduced Mr. Spurgeon's name, not Mr. Dow.

THE annual social of the Congregational Sunday School teachers, of Toronto, will be held on Tuesday, March 4th, at 7.30 p.m., in the Western Church. Papers will be read on "The ideal superintendent," by Mr. Thos. Elgar; "The ideal teacher," by Mr. T. S. Clark. It is hoped that there will be a large gathering.

Is there a Protectionist wave passing over the world just now? It looks like it. The question is more or less discussed in England. It has been been and is discussed with us in Canada. And now we see that Bismarck is trying to inaugurate a policy of Protection in Germany. The German Free Traders have been frightened, at any rate, and are preparing for resistance.

THE Rev. H. J. Colwell wishes us to say that having accepted the call of the churches at Watford and

Warwick, and being obliged to move thither shortly, he would be greatly obliged if those friends who have promised aid to the Orangeville Church would kindly forward their contributions at once. A little more help at this time will place it on a sound footing. His address until March 10th will be at Alton after that Watford. Contributions sent to either place will be carefully applied.

THERE is a bill now before the United States Congress to provide for the appointment of a national commission to investigate into the results of the liquor manufacture and trade, and to report on the same to the country. This bill has passed the Senate before; but has failed in the House of Representatives. This is a move in the right direction. The country needs all the information on the subject that it can obtain. We observe that a meeting was recently held in New York City to urge the passage of the bill in Congress. Addresses were made by Dr. Willard Parker, Prof. Roswell, D. Hitchcock and others.

THE Anti-Chinese Bill has passed the United States Senate. It was the hope of the friends of humanity that the upper house of Congress would be found equal to the emergency and would refuse to pass the bill. But the result has disappointed their expectation. There was a majority of ten for it. There is one comfort in the affair. There is little doubt that President Hayes will veto the measure, and there will be no opportunity for the present Congress to pass it over his veto even if it is so disposed. And there is another gratifying feature. The Christian sentiment of the country is opposed to the measure. That has spoken in clear, unequivocal terms during the recent discussion of the subject.

PROTESTANTISM is advancing in France. The "Journal du Protestantisme Français" of a recent date contains this item: "There are now on file in the office of the Department of Worship forty-five demands, in regular form, for the organization of new parishes of the Reformed Church." If the Protestant churches of Britain and America would only make an effort to aid their French brethren, there is no doubt that Protestantism would make rapid strides in France now. Everything is favourable to its growth. We owe much to France. Our type of Protestantism is largely French. The Frenchman, John Calvin, has left his impress forever on the Christian thought and life of Britain and America.

IN a volume recently published we find some interesting particulars given of the habits of several well-known authors. Wm. Lloyd Garrison, of anti-slavery fame, has been a teetotaler for over half a century, and abominates tobacco, but uses tea and coffee moderately. T. W. Higginson writes by daylight only, loves athletic exercise, avoids stimulants such as wines, tea, coffee and tobacco. O. B. Frothingham works from 8 or 9 a.m. till 1 or 2 p.m., takes the afternoon for recreation, does no severe brain work in the evening, is regular in his habits, is not an early riser; if living his life over again, would abstain from tea, coffee and wine. Mark Hopkins studies till his head begins to feel heavy and then stops, seldom works after 10 p.m., takes plenty of sleep.

EUROPEAN countries have been thrown into a state of unrest by reason of the breaking out of the plague in Russia. That their fear is not groundless appears when one remembers the fact that the same plague, in the seventeenth century, swept off ninety millions of people. It is the opinion of high medical authorities that if it penetrates Europe to-day it will in all proba-

bility sweep off one-third of its population. The "New York Herald" has been diving into the rag bags and finds that a large majority of the rags imported into the United States comes from Russia. With these rags comes disease, for it declares that the Russians are the dirtiest people on the face of the earth. They never wash themselves and seldom change their clothes. However, this may be, it is certain that in all cases there is a close relation between dirt and disease.

BROOKLYN Congregationalists have their little troubles. They have had them ever since the "Beecher Scandal," as it was called. Recently, the Puritan Church or what is left of it, a mere fragment called a Mr. Field to the pastorate. He accepted the call; but with this proviso: that any council concerning himself should be limited to the churches whose pastors are connected with the Manhattan Ministerial Association. Now, the Manhattan Association is composed of such men as Storrs, Budington and Taylor, all anti-Beecherites. Mr. Field will accept counsel only from its members. And they are all pretty high churchmen. They have very positive notions as to "historic" faith and polity. With the Samaritans of the New York and Brooklyn Ministerial Association they will have nothing to do. *O tempora! O mores!*

THE American House of Representatives has passed a bill prohibiting the importation of more than fifteen Chinamen on any vessel owned by a citizen of the United States. The design is to limit Chinese immigration. It is only a sop to the anti-Chinese feeling on the Pacific Coast. We hope and we believe that the Senate will refuse to pass it. But if both Houses are demented enough to pass it, no doubt President Hayes will be equal to the occasion and veto it. It seems that, even if it should be passed, it could never become law. Treaty obligations are in the way. But what becomes of the professions of an "open door," to all nationalities, which have been made so lavishly by the American people in the past? We hope that the United States will not at this late date adopt a narrow, exclusive policy.

BISHOP SIMPSON is no friend of strong drink. In his Yale lecture he urges young men entering the ministry to avoid all stimulants. His advice is good. Not only for those who are entering, but for those who are in, as well. Speaking of these stimulants he says: "I would scarcely suppose that any one who feels himself called to the ministry will countenance their use; yet kind friends will sometimes suggest that you are weak, your nerves are tremulous, you have been out in the cold, you need a little stimulant, and they will urge the taking of a little wine or brandy before preaching. These friends will tell you that the most distinguished ministers are in the habit of using them, etc., etc." He further says: "I have known some young ministers who have used a few drops of paregoric or opium to give them strength for the pulpit. I am glad to say I have known but few such cases; but I must add that these were led in the end to either physical or moral ruin." And in passing, he fires a shot at the clerical cigar: "I suppose there is a sort of enjoyment connected with it, for I have seen men sit for an hour, smoking, with their feet upon a table, professing to be studying. I have no doubt they had visions of greatness and glory; but prolonged observation shows that their lives usually ended, with their cigars, in smoke." There are many good deacons and Sunday School superintendents in our churches that might ponder the Bishop's plain words with advantage. They remind us of the utterance of another bishop—equaly outspoken—one James, who said: "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness." That includes tobacco, surely.