

The Canadian Independent.

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

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Topics of the Week.

THERE are fearful famines in Mesopotamia and Kurdistan.

A ROME despatch states that the College of the Propaganda will give 7,000 francs to the relief of the Irish distress.

THE wealthiest denomination in New York State is the Presbyterian, numbering 128,228 communicants, 1,042 ministers.

A LUTHERAN minister has made application to be appointed a missionary to the Jews in Germany under the Jewish Committee of the Irish General Assembly.

THE Catholic priest in Morris, Ind., who severely whipped three boys of his parish for acting as pall-bearers at the funeral of a Protestant boy friend, has been fined to the amount of \$300.

A BERLIN despatch says that Germany intends sending 40,000 men to the Dutch frontier to prevent smuggling. This is believed to indicate Prince Bismarck's intention to seize Holland and Belgium.

BISHOP MCNAMARA, of the Independent Catholic Church, baptized at Cambridge, Mass., during his recent visit to Boston and vicinity, the child whom Father Scully had refused to baptize unless he were paid five dollars for performing the rite.

THE native Churches of Southern Africa, gathered from the Bechuana, Hottentot, and Kaffir races, have now enrolled some 50,000 men and women who have professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who endeavour to serve God according to His Word.

THE oldest Nonconformist place of worship in Great Britain is to be seen in the village of Horningham, Wiltshire. It bears the date 1566, and was built for some Presbyterian workmen who were engaged upon the erection of a palace in the neighbourhood.

IN the New York Union Theological Seminary there are now 144 students; a greater number, we are told, than in any other Seminary in the country. Of these, 11 are graduates of Yale; 12 of Hamilton; 11 of Princeton; 14 of Lafayette; 8 of Williams, and only 5 who have not had college education.

THE Friends have been of late displaying considerable activity in Foreign Mission work. Within the year they have done much in South Africa; they have a number of societies in Madagascar; they have labourers in India and Syria; and now we hear of Mr. Hensen, in Denmark, organizing the scattered Friends there into regular meetings.

THERE are now 872 churches of the Establishment in London, against 620 ten years ago. Of these churches, 409 have weekly, and 40 daily, communion; 245 have daily service, 375 have surpliced choirs, 33 have eucharistic vestments, 13 use incense, and 56 altar lights, and in 214 the "eastward position" is observed. Only 270 have free seats.

MR. MOODY, lecturing in St. Louis on the Lord's Prayer, noticed that while he was speaking, fifty or more persons rose and left the church; whereupon he said that he had known persons who had heard about forgiveness hastily to leave the church and seek out those they needed to forgive, and he hoped that those who were then leaving the congregation were prompted by such a spirit.

RANAVATOVA, Queen of Madagascar, is a believer in compulsory education. She has issued a proclamation to her subjects, commanding them to send their children to school, saying that it makes her glad to see her subjects wise. She adds: "And so be all of you diligent; for, although you do not know the sweetness of knowledge and wisdom, you will discover it when they become yours."

REV. JOHANN HODJA, a priest in charge of the Bohemian Catholic Church of St. Wendeslaus, Baltimore, has forwarded his resignation to Archbishop Gibbons. This church was erected a few years ago for the special use of Bohemians, and at the request of the Archbishop, Father Hodja came from Bohemia to minister to it some eight months ago. He has united with the Lutheran Church and is said to be a ripe scholar and an able theologian.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON, in a late address to the students of Harvard University, stands with the strongest Puritan for the integrity of the Sabbath day. This is what he says: "I should say boldly that we should astonish every day by a beam out of eternity; retire a moment to the grand secret we carry in our bosom of inspiration from heaven. But, certainly, on this seventh, let us be children of liberty, of reason, of hope; refresh the sentiments; think as spirits think who belong to the universe, while our feet walk the streets of a little town, and our hands work in a small knot of affairs."

THE unusually severe weather is causing great distress throughout Italy. A correspondent writes: "The Arno is frost-bound, the Venetian lagoons are frozen, nearly all work is suspended, and the working population is clamouring for work or bread with more or less violence. In some parts the distress is truly appalling, the Italians having no sort of social organization for the relief of distress. There is no poor law; nothing is guaranteed to the poor save the parish doctor—not even medicine. The charitable institutions, which are enormously wealthy, are badly administered."

THERE is a colony of Christian Kaffirs at Middleburg, in the Transvaal, the result of twenty years' labour by a Lutheran missionary. A handsome brick church, built by Kaffir hands, affords accommodation for 1,500 worshippers, and rows of brick-built workshops resound with the noise of industrial pursuits. Waggon, furniture, and wood and iron work are turned out in abundance. Schools have been provided for the children, and the mission owns 30,000 acres of good land, once prairie wilderness, but now divided into small farms, and worked under the supervision of the missionaries.

AT the first meeting of the Western Committee of the National Bible Society of Scotland for the year, held in Glasgow, it was reported that the total income for 1879 had been £25,953, almost identically the amount received in the previous year; a deficiency in ordinary revenue having been made up by the receipt of a large legacy. The expenditure on foreign work had been upwards of £15,000. The issues had been 409,107 copies or parts of Scripture. Seven new auxiliaries had been formed in 1879—the total number being now nearly 300, and their contribution close on £8,000. In China, the issues had been 19,184; in Japan, 8,735; in Spain, 39,774.

A REMARKABLE instance of liberality is mentioned in the Rochester papers. At the University of Roch-

ester, Baptist, the trustees voted last July that an endowment of \$200,000 was necessary—one-half to meet the annual deficiency in current expenses and one-half to extend the educational facilities of the University. For the first half John H. Deane gave \$50,000, John B. Trevor \$25,000, and Jeremiah Millbank \$25,000. All these gentlemen are of New York. The first then said he would pledge \$50,000 more to close the matter, if the other \$150,000 was raised. John B. Trevor followed with \$25,000, and John F. and Lewis Rathbone \$12,500 each. Then several sums of \$10,000 apiece were pledged till all was made up. One hundred thousand has been paid, and the other hundred thousand has been pledged, payable in the year 1880.

AMERICAN Protestants have furnished the Turkish empire four excellent colleges: Robert College at Constantinople, the Syrian College at Beyrout, the Central Turkey College at Aintab, and the American College at Harpoot, two of which are independent of missionary control, but all of which co-operate with the missions and receive missionary co-operation. During ten years fifty-nine students have been graduated from the college at Beyrout, of whom four are engaged at the college, ten are practising medicine where good doctors are needed, two are druggists, eleven are studying medicine, and eighteen are missionary teachers, preachers, translators, etc. Forty-six have been graduated from the medical department, and five from the pharmaceutical department, and are helping to build up the reputation of the college in distant parts of the empire.

THE Presbyterians in England are discussing the subject of "lapsed communicants." A letter addressed to the "Messenger" says: "Year after year the report of the Synod's Committee on statistics records the fact that more than two thousand of our church-members fall out of communion with us, and are simply lost sight of. Some doubtless connect themselves with other churches without obtaining formal disjunction from us, but that does not excuse our neglect of these persons, or our failure to account for them; and it is to be feared that these are the smaller number of our 'lapsed' communicants. In any case they are all lost to us, and many of them are unquestionably lost to religion, too, when they pass from our spiritual oversight. It is an alarming confession for a Church to make, which numbers only some fifty thousand members, that there is an annual leakage of a twenty-fifth part of the whole body."

WE take the following from the "Protestant Standard": "The New Testament in the original has been ordered by the Department of Education to be used as a reading book in the public schools of Greece. This is a new and interesting phase of things. There are in the kingdom 1,300 schools of the primary grade with about 90,000 scholars. The 'Record' of the American Bible Society, which has received this important intelligence, gladly remarks: 'It makes the heart swell with emotion to think of schoolboys at Athens reading Paul's sermon on Mars Hill, and of Corinthian lads growing wise over the apostle's letters to the church at Corinth.' And it makes our heart swell with emotion to learn that the blessed Word of God is so honoured in Greece as to be placed in the schools and used as a text book. But here in America, the vaunted 'land of Bibles and of Bible privileges' the Holy Scriptures must be kicked out in a weak and vain attempt to conciliate Roman Catholics. May God forgive the people of this country their shameful folly!"