

The Canadian Independent.

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ONE IS YOUR MASTER, EVEN CHRIST, AND A

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Current Topics.

The Moravians have 65 churches and 150,000 members in America.

In the province of Swatow, China, are 1,500,000 women who never heard of God.

—Mr. Moody's sermons, in Arabic, are read every Sunday evening to converts in Syria.

—The merchants of Athens have resolved to close their places of business on every Sunday of the year, except two.

—The directors of the Ohio Central Railroad subscribed \$12,000 to build two churches and two school houses at Cananah, Ohio.

—There are at present three hundred and fifty Christian churches in Burmah, India, and nine-tenths of the work of evangelization is in the hands of native teachers.

—The outlook for Protestantism in Florence, Italy, is promising. There are now eight Protestant churches in that city, and the population numbers five thousand.

—The First Methodist Church of Atlanta, Georgia, has among its members the Governor, Chief Justice, a United States Senator, a member of Congress, a Secretary of State, Comptroller General, Solicitor General, and two Legislators.

—Just before David Livingstone went to Africa, he and his aged father talked over the prospects of Christian missions. They agreed that the time would come when rich men and great men would think it an honor to support whole stations of missionaries, instead of spending their money on hounds and horses.

—The *Record* of Feb. 23rd, states that the signatures to what is called Bishop Perry's Memorial against any toleration of Ritual practices amount to 5,250, and include three Bishops, ten Deans, ten Archdeacons, four Masters of Colleges, five Principals, twenty-two Canons, and eighty-seven Prebends and Honorary Canons.

—It is reported that the English Government proposes to grant the Boers a constitution similar to the Confederation Act of 1867, under which Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick were merged into the Dominion. Each state will be allowed to elect its own legislature, and to return a certain number of members, on the basis of representation by population, to a Federal Parliament, which shall have supreme power, subject only to the Colonial Office, which will revise legislation.

—The preliminaries for the organization of a Protestant order in Ontario are being rapidly developed, and it is understood that the first meeting will be held in this city next week. It is said that many men belonging to both political parties intend to enrol their names as members, the main object of the order being to oppose Catholicism in every shape and form. The members will be bound by oath to vote against every Catholic, independent of party, who comes forward as a candidate for public office. The work of the order will be kept secret, even the officers' names will not be announced, and on no occasion will there be a public demonstration.

Not even Spain can wholly blockade all its intellectual and spiritual ports of entry" against the light of Christian truth and gospel freedom. In Spain even the nineteenth century is daring to look Medivalism in the face. The Papal Nuncio has been joining the Spanish Bishop in protesting against the appointment in schools and universities of any but rigid Romanists, and especially against a y extension of tolerance to Protestants. Nevertheless, after long deliberation the Council of Ministers has expressly and significantly informed the Nuncio that, "while respecting the Concordat of 1851, it is determined to maintain its sovereign right to "decree reforms."

—Mr. Mollmann, who has recently returned to Shanghai from his long and successful tour of exploration in the West of China, reports having seen the following proclamation at the town of Shui Fu, in January, 1878:—

"The books that the foreigner is selling are printed with ink made of stupefying medicine. When anyone reads them for a time, he becomes stupified and loses his natural reason, and believes and follows the false doctrine. This is to warn the Chinese not to purchase or read them. Again, the foreigners use much money to bribe over the poorer class of Chinese, who have no means to depend on. They also use the stupefying medicine in all sorts of food, in order to win over the little children. At times they use it for kidnapping children, whom they sell to foreigners. Again, they use it to befool them, and then take away their marrow. The children immediately die. In former years there have been law cases about stupefying and kidnapping children at Tientsin and Shanghai. Wherever foreigners come families ought to warn their children not to go out." —*Monthly Reporter of British and Foreign Bible Society.*

—In several of the State Legislatures the question of the proper regulation of the liquor traffic is under consideration. That of Massachusetts contemplates a return to the prohibitory law which was in force a few years ago. That of Ohio has before it a measure whose general character is expressed by the statement of its authors that they mean to "tax the business into respectability or out of existence." In North Carolina a very rigorous license law has passed one branch, while some hoped for a prohibitory law. It is reported that any action of this sort will give great offence, and will alienate votes in the western part of the State, among the mountain countries; and it is reported that the Republicans are watching their chance to make political capital in that quarter. If they did, they would be playing exactly the game adopted by the Democrats of Ohio, who expect to get back into office by the help of the Germans who will be offended by the enactment and enforcement of temperance and Sunday laws. This might be alleged as another confirmation of the somewhat fanciful theory that, in spite of theoretical differences, the Democratic party of the South corresponds in general character to the Republican party of the North, and *vice versa*.

—The *Fountain*, London, Eng. says. There is not a more touching political sign of the times than the solicitude manifested by the public of all classes for the personal well-being of the remarkable

statesman at the head of Her Majesty's Government. We believe there is a uniqueness in the public anxiety as to the health of Mr Gladstone which distinguishes it from the usual inquiries to which the indisposition of any prominent person gives rise. On the occasion of his recent illness the number of people who called in the course of one day was almost incredible, and their names showed them to have been of every shade of political opinion. On Thursday evening, the 24th February, Mr. Gladstone was returning from Marlborough House, where he had been dining with the Prince and Princess of Wales, and on entering his official residence from the park, slipped in the melting snow and fell, cutting the back of his head. Rising immediately without aid, he was assisted into the house, and his physician, Dr. Andrew Clark, was sent for. Fortunately the injury proved to be slight, and a few days' rest has enabled his physical constitution—an endowment almost as marvellous in his case as his intellectual gifts—to throw off the effect of the shock which his system sustained. The day after, several hundred inquiries were made as to the patient's state, and no one can doubt, so far as the feeling of the country can be gauged, that profound thankfulness for his speedy recovery is general.

—I have received, through the kindness of a correspondent, an extract from the journal of the Rev. John Smith Moffat, sent to his wife and children in Graham's Town, giving an account of the perilous experiences through which he has lately passed in South Africa. The extract shows, as my correspondent observes, that in a very trying hour the conduct and bearing of this son of the veteran missionary were worthy of the name of Moffat. Mr. John Smith Moffat, acting in his capacity as Government Commissioner to the natives, entered the little town of Zeerust, in the neighborhood of which he was staying at the farm of a friend, on Christmas-day, and to his surprise found the Transvaal flag flying and the Dutch in occupation. All the male population of the place had gathered in front of the Magistrates' Office, and that building was under the guard of a band of about fifty Boers, armed and mounted. Mr. Moffat, on drawing near, was summoned to a conference with some of the leaders of the movement, and was told to consider himself discharged from office, and that he must promise to remain absolutely passive and on no account to enter Kaffirland. He firmly and quietly stated that he would promise nothing except subject to the orders of his own Government. A great tumult followed: there were cries of "Shoot him!" and one or two persons struck Mr. Moffat. Some of the older men, however, seemed ashamed of this, and gradually the excitement cooled down. The situation was evidently perilous in the extreme, and Mr. Moffat's calmness and courage probably had a good deal to do with his escape from immediate death. He was nominally placed under arrest, but was liberated on bail, and got back to his friend's farm on the same day, when they "ate their Christmas dinner and smoked their pipes in peace." On the 25th (of December, I presume) Mr. Moffat wrote, "All well at present, with time and patience, all will be well." —*Christian World.*

—LADY LI, wife of the viceroy of the Province Peh-Chih, was very sick, and could get no relief from Chinese treatment. Miss Howard, an American missionary physician, was called in and Lady Li recovered. Full of gratitude for the results of Western medical skill, the viceroy established a dispensary, which has now developed into a fine hospital, established by native funds, for the benefit of sick and suffering Chinese, and in charge of Drs. McKenzie and Howard. The cure of Lady Li and the opening of the dispensary in the governor-general's own official residence are already known to our readers; but the erection and formal opening of the London Mission Hospital are an outcome of a most notable event in Chinese missions, not expected so soon. The Rev. Henry D. Porter, who writes for *The Advance* an account of the opening of the hospital, regards the movement as very auspicious, perhaps epochal. The opening took place in December, and was attended by the viceroy in state, many other Chinese officials and a number of foreign consuls being present. When the governor had been seated in the place of honor, an address, written in "elegant classical Chinese," was read by a young preacher of the London Mission. The viceroy received the paper after it was read, and said: "Truly, Dr. McKenzie, you make a fine account of my little effort to assist the poor. How am I worthy of your many compliments?" The viceroy then inspected the rooms and apparatus, and then he heard more addresses from foreign consuls. To these a reply was read by the viceroy's interpreter "in correct and elegant French." Following this came a feast, after which the governor left, amid the boom of cannon and the sound of music. On the Sunday following a union service was held in the hospital, at which the four societies at work in Tientsin, with their one hundred or more communicants, were represented. The building is in the Chinese order of architecture and cost 4,000 taels (about \$6,000). The whole amount, except about 500 taels, has been subscribed. The dispensary and hospital together involved an expense of 7,000 taels, of which the viceroy gave 4,000 and other high officials the remainder.

—When any one out West relates a circumstance that takes more than ten men to believe, they interrupt him by asking if he has a photograph of the occurrence.

—Teacher—"Suppose that you have two sticks of candy, and your big brother gives you two more; how many have you got then?" Little boy (shaking his head)—"You don't know him. He ain't that kind of a boy."

—A reporter for a Buffalo paper, in giving an account of the burning of an ice-house in that city, says that "the power of the raging flames was irresistible, and soon reduced twenty thousand tons of ice to ashes!"

—The *New York World* makes neat definitions. "Mr. Longfellow can take a worthless sheet of paper, and by writing a poem on it make it worth \$50. That's genius. Mr. Vanderbilt can take a sheet of paper and by writing fewer words on it can make it worth \$50,000,000. That's capital."