

The Canadian Independent.

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

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THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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REV. W. MANCHEE, *Managing Editor.*

REV. JOHN WOOD,
" R. W. WALLACE, M.A., } *Associate Editors.*
" JOSEPH GRIFFITH,
REV. J. B. SILCOX, *Business Manager.*

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

All communications for the Editorial, News of Churches, and Correspondence Columns should be addressed to the Managing Editor, the Rev. W. MANCHEE, Box 204, Guelph, Ont. Any article intended for the next issue must be in his hands not later than Monday morning.

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All Subscriptions and advertisements should be sent to the Business Manager, Rev. J. B. Silcox, 340 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Ont. Subscription \$1 per annum, payable in advance. Remit by Money Order, Draft, or Registered Letter.

Do not forget the collection for the union meetings on the first Sunday in June.

The new Wesley Congregational Church, Montreal, is rapidly approaching completion. It is expected to be opened in a few weeks.

We see by the English "Nonconformist" that Melbourne, New South Wales, is about to lose Thomas Jones. The condition of his health makes it necessary that he should resign the pastorate of Collins street Church, in that city.

The church at Milton, N.S., held special services throughout January, and again April. Five united with the Church on the first Sabbath of April, and eight on the first Sabbath of May, all by profession. Others give good evidence of conversion.

The church at Brooklyn, N.S., is again vacant, the Rev. Mr. Tarleton having returned to the States, after a supply of six months. He not only filled the pulpits at Brooklyn and Beachmeadows at the regular seasons, but held special services in both places with good results.

The strike in the Durham coal-mining district has come to an end at last. The dispute between masters and men was submitted to the Judge of the County Court, and his decision was accepted by both parties. Can any one tell why arbitration is not resorted to in such cases at the outset, and so shut out such things as "strikes" and "lock-outs"?

It looks as if the members of the Liberal party in Scotland did not know what to do on the subject of Church disestablishment. They are divided; some are for a national establishment, some against. And now the elections are not very far off. The probability is that disestablishment will not be made a party question now: but this is only putting off the evil day.

They are going to flood the Sahara, of Africa, at least this was the subject of discussion at a recent meeting of the Paris Academy. M. de Lesseps, of Suez Canal fame, thought it practicable. It would be nice to sail over that bed of burning sand, and pluck dates from the trees along the banks, and arrest the progress of the ostrich by a well-aimed shot from the deck of a vessel.

It will be well for ministers and delegates to bear in mind Dr. Wilkes' suggestion concerning the Missionary Society, as given in his article in the INDEPENDENT of April 17th, and come to the Union "with something thought out." We suggest that all the churches make this subject of missions a matter of special prayer and thought at the Wednesday evening prayer meeting prior to the Union.

CALIFORNIA has adopted a new Constitution by popular vote, and it seems to be a thoroughly revolutionary measure. The Kearney party in the State regard it as a triumph for them. One article forbids any corporation formed under the laws of the State to employ any Chinese or Mongolian in any way. It looks as if this Constitution conflicted with that of the United States, and we hope that it does, for we want to see it set aside at once.

"THOSE CONSPICUOUS FIGURES." A gentleman in remitting the amount of his arrears to the INDEPENDENT said, in the note sent, "Please take off those conspicuous figures on my label." We did as requested with a glad heart, and feel certain that that man relishes the paper more because "those conspicuous figures" are no more. Are there any "conspicuous figures" on your label that make it an eyesore to you? We want to remove them. Look and see. Be quick.

THE end is not yet. Dr. Van Dyke and others who are dissatisfied with the decision of the Presbytery on the Talmage trial intend carrying the case before the Synod. The trial just closed lasted seven weeks, and cost the churches composing the Presbytery over two thousand dollars. The money and time might have been better spent. This carrying the case from the Presbytery to the Synod and from the Synod to the Assembly is an illustration of the simplicity of the "Presbyterian principle."

DR. S. IRENEUS PRIME, of the New York "Observer," has fallen foul of Arthur Mursell. He speaks of Mr. Mursell's American letters to the "Christian World" as "rancorous, calumnious, bilious, atrabilious, and false." Mr. Mursell rejoins, and gives as good as he gets. We did think that the letters were remarkably "Mursellian," and that many things were said in them which were somewhat highly coloured. But what is the use of all this passion? No one is hurt.

WE congratulate the authorities at Hamilton for the vigorous way in which they showed their disapproval of that most inhuman and barbarous amusement—cockfighting. The magistrate gave his decision that the two principal offenders should pay \$30 each, and the others (eleven in number), to pay \$10 and \$5 each. This short homily on kindness to animals will be understood by these roughs. The magistrate deserves the thanks of all good men. He has shown himself truly orthodox as "a terror to evil-doers." It is in marked contrast with the slowness of the authorities in relation to that brutal prize-fight.

DR. JUSTIN D. FULTON has withdrawn from the Baptist Ministerial Association of New York. He prefers to stand alone rather than belong to an association that arrogates to itself the right to discipline him for whatever honest utterances he may choose to make. The Dr. does not take stock in the doctrine that a minister must be tried "by his peers." "With me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you. . . . He that judgeth me is the Lord." This is where Paul stood. This is where ministers should stand to-day. He who realizes this direct personal responsibility to Christ will not go far astray either in doctrine or conduct.

MR. DAVID MACRAE, of Gourrock, must be a very persistent man. He seems determined to force the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland to throw off the symbols, or, at least, the old interpretation of them. At a recent meeting of his Presbytery, he asked that body to transmit an overture to the Synod praying it

"to release the Church from identification with the Westminster interpretation of Scripture," on the subject of everlasting punishment. He wants to get rid of the "dogma of everlasting and unspeakable torment." The wonder to us is, that such a man is permitted to remain in the ministry of the United Presbyterian Church. Certainly, the world moves.

THE Congregational Union of Scotland held its annual meetings in Dundee, beginning on the 22nd of April. The chairman this year was Rev. John Tait; next year Rev. James Troun, of Helensburgh, is to occupy the position. In the annual reports it appeared that there had been a decided falling off in the contributions of the churches during the year. Scotch Congregationalists are trying to secure a chapel-building fund of £10,000. Of this only £3,000 has been obtained as yet. On the evening of the 23rd, a very interesting public meeting was held, at which addresses were delivered by Rev. Wm. Crosbie, Derby, delegate from the English Union; Rev. Dr. Pulsford and Rev. Albert Goodrich.

THE English Baptist anniversaries began in London, on the 23rd of April. The union, under the presidency of Rev. George Gould, of Norwich, met in Bloomsbury Chapel, on the 28th. The address of the president was devoted almost altogether to denominational matters. In the annual report we find some items of interest. For instance, we learn that there are in Great Britain and Ireland 3,451 Baptist church buildings with 1,028,000 sittings. Church members are returned as about 276,348, an increase during the year of 7,512. There are 1,879 pastors and 2,652 evangelists and lay preachers. The amount raised for evangelistic work was £16,996. A zenana breakfast was held in connection with the union, on the morning of the 30th. On the whole, it seems that our Baptist brethren in England are doing their full share of the Master's work, and that they are blessed with great success.

THE "Christian Union" closes an editorial on the Talmage trial in the following sensible fashion:—"Imagine the question of Paul's orthodoxy, or John Mark's consistency, left to be determined by appointing Peter to stretch every nerve to prove him guilty, John to employ every stratagem to prove him innocent, and the rest of the apostles to decide between them after the sacred sparring-match was over! What method could we propose? In the absence of any better suggestion, we think it might be well for the disciples of Christ to try the method which Christ recommended. If any brother felt himself personally injured by Dr. Talmage, or felt that a more serious injury had been inflicted on the Churches of Christ by his conduct, he might go to him alone to remonstrate; if that did no good, he might take one or two discreet brethren and make, with their aid, a more vigorous attempt to rectify the wrong; and, if that also failed, he might then leave Dr. Talmage alone, and if necessary make a public statement why he chose to do so. This is not a method very much in vogue in any Christian denomination as yet. It affords no fields for forensic displays, and no opportunity for newspaper notoriety. We will not say that even some better method of dealing with Christian ministers accused by that "devil's advocate" of modern society, "common fame," may not be discovered or invented in the future. But we think we are quite prepared to say that trial by wager of battle in a "Court of Jesus Christ" is not such an invention as will commend itself to the average unbeliever as any improvement on Christ's forgotten plan."