

# The Canadian Independent.

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

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## Topics of the Week.

EVERYTHING seems to indicate that the French Government will rigidly enforce the existing, though for a good while past practically obsolete, laws against the Jesuits.

It is stated that at the close of the year 1879 there were in the world 10,207 members of the Order of Jesuits, an increase of 220 during the year and of 1,524 since 1869. Of the whole number, 2,104 are missionaries, and the rest, 8,103, are occupied in teaching.

MISS FIELDE, a missionary under the Baptist Board, at Swatow, China, has about twenty Bible women whom she has taught, and sends out two by two into hundreds of heathen villages. Five years ago most of these women were ignorant superstitious heathen; to-day they are earnest, intelligent Bible women. Such is the transforming power of the Gospel.

A WORKINGMAN in Manchester, Eng., recently gave an "object lesson" that was full of meaning. Taking a loaf of bread, to represent the wages of his fellow-workmen, he cut off a moderate slice, saying to his audience, "This is what you give to the city government." A larger slice which he then cut off he said, "is what you give to the general government." Then with a vigorous flourish of his knife he cut off three-quarters of the loaf, saying, "This is what you give to the brewer." Only a thin slice then remained, the greater part of which he set aside for the "public house," leaving only a few crumbs, "and this you keep to support yourself and family."

REV. T. R. SAMPSON, missionary, announces the important fact that the Minister of Education of the Kingdom of Greece, has issued an order to school inspectors to add the New Testament to the reading books of the schools of the nation. The demand for it has become so great that the missionary depositories there are not able to supply it, and an enterprising publisher has issued the Gospels, and is getting out the other parts as quickly as possible. Before this order it was with difficulty that the missionaries could sell a thousand copies a year in all the kingdom, and there was no naive publisher brave enough to risk his money and his reputation in publishing the book.

THE Rev. Nathan Sites, an American Methodist missionary in China, was recently beset by a mob at Yenping-foo, and seriously injured with clubs and stones. If a magistrate had not interfered, he would have been drowned by the infuriated populace. This attack which came so near proving fatal, is set down, we observe, to the account of the "hoodlums" of San Francisco. Yenping-foo men having suffered there at the hands of these California "Mexican men." It was but natural that the kinsmen and neighbours of these persecuted Chinamen, inflamed with resentment, should lay hands on the first American that fell into their hands, even though the sufferer in this case was one who had done them no injury, but was trying to do them good.

A GOOD report is that of the twenty-fourth year of the Missionary Association of the Fourteenth street Presbyterian Church, New York (the Rev. F. H. Marting's). Their receipts for twenty-four years have been \$22,915.92. Their superintendent's "Special Report on Systematic Offerings" states that, during the past year, out of the "possible number of offerings," 8,070, the "actual number" has been 8,037, in the senior department; in "the infantry," 3,355 out of a possible 3,403. Their appropriations for the year

have been \$990.69 of which \$500 toward the support of a missionary of the American Sunday school Union in Minnesota; \$100 for a school in Lebanon, Syria; \$59 for other mission work; for their church work \$211. These are good facts for the Systematic Benevolence Society.

PROFESSOR CANDLISH of the Free Church College, Glasgow, has entered into a correspondence with the Rev. Dr. McLachlan with reference to an assertion made by the latter that Professor Candlish was said to maintain that there was in man an inner light and authority higher than the Word of God; and that his teaching in the Glasgow Theological Hall was dangerous and unsettling. At a Presbytery meeting at Glasgow on the 25th of February, Professor Candlish read the correspondence, and stated that what he taught was that the Spirit witnessed by and with the Word of God in their hearts. He maintained that his teaching on that subject was that of Luther and Calvin, Owen and Gillespie, the fathers of the Secession, Thomas Chalmers, Robert Candlish, and C. Hodge. The members of the Presbytery expressed satisfaction at the explanation made by Professor Candlish, but deferred to give any expression of opinion on the correspondence until the matter has been dealt with by the Presbytery of Edinburgh.

A WRITER of the "London Gos-op" in the Birmingham "Daily Post" says: "The greatest mystery still prevails with regard to the ruin, public and complete, which has so suddenly overtaken that spoiled child of the Roman Catholic Church, Monsignor Capel. The sale of his furniture and effects, even to the very keepsakes he had received from grateful converts, has taken everybody, perhaps even himself, by surprise. The great work in contemplation by Monsignor Capel—that of founding a Roman Catholic public school upon the plain of Eton and Westminster—remains unfulfilled. The ground on which the school was to have been built has been sold, and it ever the dream should be realized, another locality will have to be chosen. The sale of the whole of the personal property, even to the vestments worn at the altar by Monsignor Capel, seems bad enough, but even that does not give such a tangible clue to the mystery as the bringing to the hammer of poor Bruno, the collier, the friend and companion of his master, the pet and plaything of the guests at Cedar Villa—Bruno, who was wont to display his talents with such delight to the cluster of juvenile visitors who would gather beneath the great cedar tree to behold the magnificent creature jump with three cheers for the Pope, and sink away with a vicious growl at the name of Bismarck."

THE Earl of Derby, speaking at the meeting of the London Coffee Tavern Company on the 25th of February, in recommending habits of temperance to the working classes, made use of some forcible arguments. "We have," he said, "heard a great deal recently about the peasantry becoming owners of land and having gardens, fields, and farms of their own. Now, an acre of good agricultural land is worth, on an average, about £60, or, as nearly as possible, 3d. for every square yard. I wonder how many working men consider that, when they order threepenny worth of beer or spirits, they are swallowing down a square yard of good agricultural land. Or, to put it in another way, supposing out of our national drinking bill of £140,000,000 we could annually save £60,000,000, and supposing this moderate reduction were continued for ten years only, how much land do you suppose that the working classes could buy out of that saving? It is a very simple sum—10,000,000 acres, or just one-eighth of the whole soil of

this island. I recommend that as a subject of profitable meditation to those concerned in such matters. I do not think the great consuming classes sufficiently understand how completely the publican and the tax-gatherer are one and the same person, as far as they are concerned. I do not think they quite realize, when they order sixpenny worth of spirits, that they are handing over 5d. as their gift to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. If they did realize that, it is quite possible that some of them would repent of their liberality." A large number in Canada, also, would ponder his lordship's words and take his advice there would be very little need for much talk about charity and charitable institutions.

FROM the annual report on the schools of Japan for the year 1877-8, it appears that in the seven grand school districts or areas into which the empire is divided, the number of elementary schools established was 25,459, of which 24,281 were higher schools, and 1,178 private—being an increase of 794 public schools and a decrease of 282 private schools, shewing a net increase of 512 elementary schools. The number of teachers employed was 57,933—56,658 males and 1,275 females. This shews an increase of 7,364 male and 279 female teachers over the number employed during the preceding year. The number of pupils in these schools was 2,162,962—of these 1,552,410 were boys, and 543,768 girls in the public schools and 42,332 boys and 24,452 girls in the private. The average attendance at the 25,459 schools was about 85 pupils per school. Compared with the attendance at the schools during the previous year, these numbers shew an increase of 58,287 boys and 41,881 girls at the public schools. There is, however, yet a vast proportion of the children in Japan of school age, in fact the great majority of them, who do not attend school at all. Thus out of a school population of 5,251,807, only 2,094,298 received instruction, while 3,158,870 attended no school whatever, or received instruction of any kind. The number, however, of those who attend school is rapidly increasing, and while the attendance of boys at the schools increased 393 per cent. during the year the attendance of the girls increased 834 per cent. The percentage in the number of female teachers employed is also sensibly increased. It is noted that while there was a decrease of 111 male teachers in the private schools, there was an increase of eighteen female teachers in the same schools. In the public schools the increase was more marked, it being fourteen per cent. of male teachers as compared with an increase of twenty-three per cent. of female teachers employed. This increase may be accounted for from the fact, that during the year two additional Normal Schools, exclusively for females, were established, and five others already established were opened to females, which had been previously closed to them. The facts indicate a gratifying and growing interest in female education in this old Eastern empire. It is an evidence of the appreciation in Japan of the care and culture of women, which is characteristic of European and American civilization, with which that empire has within the last few years been brought into close contact. The income of the higher schools for the year is set down at \$6,700,000. Of this sum, \$2,688,000 were derived from "school district rates," \$736,000 from "voluntary contributions," \$393,000 from school fees, and \$545,000 from the Government. The expenditure was \$5,365,000. Among its items are \$2,640,000 for teachers, salaries and \$424,000 for books and apparatus. The value of school-houses in the empire is estimated at \$3,164,000, of sites, or school grounds, \$265,000; school apparatus \$1,051,000, and of school books \$816,000.