

The Canadian Independent.

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

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Topics of the Week.

—The *Occident* says that Mr. Stuart, of New York, has increased his gift to the Theological Seminary at San Francisco from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

—The Jesuits have bought for \$100,000 a prison in Wales, to be used for their purposes, this being the second establishment; they have founded in that country since being driven out of France.

—The Rev. H. D. Northrop, formerly pastor of the Fourth Congregational church in Hartford, has accepted a call from the North Tenth Street Presbyterian church in Philadelphia. It is the largest church of the denomination in the city, its Sunday school numbering 800 members.

—The labors of Moody and Sankey in San Francisco and Oakland, Cal., have filled the largest churches in those cities. The *Herald of Truth* says: "The good accomplished already by these evangelists is not to be told in the unity of Christian effort by ministers and their congregations in the reclaiming of backsliders and in the salvation of souls. Godspeed the glorious work."

—Sunday we are glad to see is to be kept more strictly in Prussia hereafter. Hunting is not to be allowed on that day nor church festivals, under penalty of a fine or four weeks imprisonment. As to the wisdom of these particular regulations we are not in a position to judge, but we are clear in the opinion that for the good of the community, amusements and ordinary work should be prohibited by law.

An evidence of the effect of mission work in this Empire, says the *Japan Weekly Mail*, is afforded by the *Hochi Shinbun*, a vernacular journal, which says that the chief priest of the Chion temple, at Kioto, is so distressed and alarmed at the spread of the doctrines of Christianity among his countrymen that he has drawn up a memoir containing his arguments (?) against the Christian religion, and transmitted it to the educational department.

Joseph Cook and Major Whittle spoke in Glasgow, Scotland, to about 5,000 persons Dec. 5. Hundreds were unable to gain admittance to the building. The crowd outside organized a meeting, and the gospel was preached to them also. About 500 young men remained to the inquiry meeting after the service, and in another hall about the same number of young women, who were talked to by Mr. and Mrs. McGarahan. Many have professed conversion. Mr. Cook also spoke to a large audience at the City Hall, Glasgow, Dec. 19, on Alcohol and the Brain.

—The White Star Line of steamers, very popular from its well-ordered provision for passengers and rapid trips, at the solicitation of some Christian men who go often to Europe, has caused to be put up in its vessels, "a respectful appeal by the company" against gambling and objectionable language on the part of passengers. The public betting on steamers is well known, and its bad influence over the young men who travel can hardly be overstated. Gambling made apparently respectable to while away time on ship-board, loses none of its allurements or the debasing effects that attend it on land. "It should be tabooed by all good people."

The church at Hampstead, Eng., as a memorial to its late pastor, Rev. Mr. Wright, has given \$3,000 to the Church Missionary Society to send out a missionary. This is indeed raising a noble monument to the teaching of a good man.

Dr. Pressense gives an illustration of the superiority and prosperity of Free over State Churches, the church of Neuchâtel, founded not two years ago, in a little country place by no means wealthy. It has been able to provide for all its own claims, and for those of its theological faculty, at the head of which is the illustrious scholar, Godet. He learns from that eminent Professor that in a short period more than a million and a half francs (£60,000) have been raised for religious purposes.

The British Postal Telegraph Service yields an enormous income, according to last accounts something like £500,000 a year net. The Postal Penny Savings Bank System also proves a decided success. It is a remarkable fact that while in France there are more than 4,000,000 people who have invested in government stocks, in England the entire national debt of £730,000,000 is held by not more than 23,000 people.

The plain fact in the cases of Rev. Messrs. Dale, Enraght, and the other English ritualist clergymen who have defied the bishops and the courts, and have had to pay the penalty of being shut up for a time, is that they enjoy the sentimental sort of martyrdom in which they thus have been able at last to involve themselves. If they would secede from the Established Church, they might be as pronounced in their views and practices as they like, but they have no idea of doing anything of the sort. They might not attract much notice in that case, and they certainly would have to surrender their present livings with their incomes, and neither of these things are they willing to do for a moment. These ritualists make excellent martyrs so far as talk is concerned, but when martyrdom begins to mean what it meant to the Pilgrim Fathers they do not show real grit. Nobody ever will see them colonize a new country for the sake of being able to worship according to their own ideas.

The *Christian at Work* has just published the opinions of thirty well-known representatives of several different denominations, expressed in reply to the question whether miracles ceased with the apostolic era, or whether Christians may look for miraculous phenomena in answer to prayer. With a few exceptions, of which only one or two are very positive, they agree that miracles have not occurred since the days of the apostles, and are not to be expected hereafter; but that, in answer to the prayer of genuine faith, God sometimes does, and may be expected to do, wonderful things, which, nevertheless, are not miracles. These opinions are accompanied by a report of Dr. Lyng's utterance about the cures at Lourdes, which he regards as undeniable, but as answers to prayer and not miracles. The publication of these opinions will do good. It is noticeable that the differences between them depend chiefly upon what is understood by a miracle. Really they are substantially one, and their general conclusion should be emphasized strongly that true miracles ceased with the

apostles, but that God still does grant great and marvellous things in answer to prayer.

The *N. Y. Times* remarks wittily in respect to the evident disposition of the late Presbyterian Council to hold fast to the form of sound words, which had come down to them from the past. "This is, of course, dreadfully narrow minded and wholly unworthy of the age. The Presbyterians ought to sit humbly at the feet of Agnosticism and learn the true function of a religious denomination. They may think that the Presbyterian sect was formed in order to defend the doctrines of Christianity from attack. They should learn that the true object of a Church or any religious sect is to get rid of the doctrines of Christianity. They should take the broad, liberal ground that their creed is of no consequence, and that their whole duty is to grope in the dark for new doctrines, and thereby exhibit their love of progress. Instead of holding a meeting all by themselves in Philadelphia, the Presbyterian members of the Alliance should have gone to Concord, and after solemnly repudiating Christianity, they should have listened reverently to the Orphic utterances of Brown and Jones and Harris and Gamp, and tried to make a little progress in the vague and unthinkable. While we deplore the slavery of the Presbyterians, and, indeed, of all sects and Churches to their respective creeds, we should not forget that our mathematicians are also fettered to their creed, technically known as axioms. The whole science of geometry is founded upon certain axioms, and with a bigoted intolerance worthy only of a believer in Christianity, the student of geometry is required at the very beginning of his studies to profess his belief in the axioms. The arguments with which the geometers try to defend their adherence to their axioms strikingly resemble that by which the Presbyterians defend their adherence to their creed. It will at once be perceived that their can be no true progress in geometry more than in Christianity, so long as these degrading views are held. If progress in Christian thought means the rejection of Christian dogmas, progress in geometry must mean the rejection of geometrical axioms, and in their opposition to true progress there is little to choose between Christians and geometers."

MISSION NOTES.

Dr. Legge, the professor of Chinese at Oxford University, says: "If the present rate of conversion of the Chinese to Christianity continues, by the year 1913 there will be 26,000,000 church-members, and 100,000,000 professed Christians in the Chinese Empire."

The number of Indian youth learning trades in work-shops under the care of the government has increased from 185 last autumn to 385 this year. Brickmaking has been begun. The Indians now nearly always build their own houses.

The regular work of the American Board requires not less than \$500,000 this year. The churches will need to be asked for \$430,000 of this, or twenty per cent. in advance of the receipts of the preceding year. The work was never going forward so grandly, and its being crippled for lack of funds would never be felt so keenly as now.

The *Missionary Herald* for January contains a very suggestive summary of missions. The American Board has seventeen missions with 717 stations and out-stations, 1,843 laborers in these fields, of whom 1,427 are native helpers, 273 churches with

about 16,992 members, and 30,693 pupils in its various schools. It has printed over 20,666,478 pages.

Commentaries on the Bible in English, by Scott, Henry, Barnes and others, are greatly needed at the missionary stations by students and native pastors. They can be sent to C. N. Chapin, No. 14 Congregational House. Missionary letters for monthly concerts, printed but not published, and a statement of the present field, force, and work in missions, for distribution in the pews in connection with the annual contribution of the churches, can be had also by addressing Mr. Chapin.

The great work in connection with the American Baptist Telugu Mission in India is still going on. The Rev. J. E. Clough, in a private letter, dated from Ongole, Oct. 16th, states that at the quarterly meeting, just closed, 321 persons were baptized, seventy-five new helpers appointed, twenty-six new churches set off, and twenty-five new teachers for village schools selected. The number baptized this year, so far, is 1,875.

The receipts of the A. M. A. for the past two months have been nine per cent. in advance of the corresponding months last year. Yet in view of the work to be done, the society has asked an advance of twenty-five per cent. this year. No work ought to press harder on the hearts of the people than the work at our very doors. The coloured people are making all possible efforts to obtain an education. One girl who had taught school fourteen months in Mississippi, where the people were unable to pay her, persuaded a man who owed her to kill his pig, which she then put in a sack and peddled it out on horse-back. She has an invalid mother and others dependent upon her for support. She is trying hard to educate herself, and she and hundreds of others deserve our aid.

The Nyanzi mission of the Church Missionary Society in Central Africa is not suspended as has been stated. Mr. Luchfield in his journey from Kageri to Uyu found that the Romish priests buy little boys and girls, and place them in seminaries teaching the faith of that church and such trades as the children seem best fitted for. In Uganda they paid for these little slaves, bullets, cloth, cows, etc. Out of a Romish party of sixteen who were under orders to settle with the chief of Buzongora, only four survive. The Society of African Missions, one of the Romish societies placed under the ban in France, has seven missions in Africa, the centre of its work being in Dahomey.

If any one reading Miss Bird's excellent work on Japan, or any other on that country, should infer from her statements that mission work has made slow progress there, it deserves to be remembered that since 1872 the number of converts, who can be depended upon, has risen from some twenty or thirty to nearly or quite 3,500. Miss Bird's book is exceptionally valuable, and renders willing tribute to the work of the missionaries; but some have thought that she has failed to appreciate fully the success of the mission work already done. The mission of the American Board reports four churches organized during the year, five pastors ordained, and 121 members added on confession. The present number of churches is sixteen. These have raised \$2,000 the past year. Recently the natives have held public Christian meetings in the open air at Tokio with nearly 5,000 persons present. Notices were posted all about the city, one of these on the spot where the old edict against Christianity was formerly placed.

SELFISHNESS. Charles Kingsley said a very wise thing in a few words on the subject of "selfishness," thus: "If you want to spoil all that God gives you, if you want to be miserable yourself, and a maker of misery to others, the way is easy enough. Only be selfish, and it is done at once. Think about yourself, what respect people ought to pay you, and then to you nothing will be pure."