

# 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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MR. IRA D. SANKEY is resting at Llandudno, Wales. He will assist Mr. Moody in a campaign of six months in St. Louis next winter.

DR. ROBERT MOFFATT says that "mission work all over South Africa has been thrown back fifty years by the present war with the Zulus."

T. M. HARVEY, an English merchant of Natal, Africa, has given \$100,000 to the English Wesleyan Missionary Society for foreign missions.

OUR theological seminary in Chicago seems to be prospering. It has just added a sixth professor to its teaching staff. The man chosen is Rev. G. B. Willcox, D.D., of Stamford, Conn., and he takes the chair of pastoral theology and special studies.

A YOUNG gentleman of Brixton, England, two years ago started a Sabbath afternoon service for children, which is now attended by from 500 to 600 children. Within the last year he formed a "Waste Not Society" among them, the members of which collect waste paper, from the sale of which they have supported a little girl in the Orphanage.

The numbers of the "Living Age" for the weeks ending June 14th and 21st respectively contain many interesting and important articles from the leading English periodicals, among which the curious will find "The Secret Correspondence of Louis XV.," which throws considerable light on the history of an important period.

SIX teachers of the London Missionary Society, landing recently on an island near New Guinea, were poisoned by the natives, who placed upas wood in their drinking water. Of twenty men landed in this district, only five remain, the rest having died of poison and fever. These teachers were converted Polynesians.

THE stage has been turned into the service of temperance in one case, at least. At the Princess' Theatre, London, a drama under the title of "Drink," written by Charles Reade, was produced recently. One of the characters is a man who has gone mad by brandy-drinking, and it is said that a more fearful representation was never witnessed on any boards.

THE Archbishop of Canterbury sees in the younger clergy "a growing feeling of the great importance of setting a good example" in the matter of temperance, "to those whom they are called upon to teach. The number of young men who abstain altogether" from intoxicating beverages, "without any pledge, because they think that thereby they are doing good to those whom they can influence, is yearly increasing."

THE Presbyterian General Assembly at Saratoga took strong ground against theatres and operas. It formally condemned attendance on them as inconsistent with Christian duty, "since it not only gives countenance and support to an institution justly described by a former Assembly as a school of immorality, but is in itself spiritually hurtful, and tends to obliterate the line which should always be plainly visible between the followers of Christ and the world."

THE "Christian Union" wants a change in the International Series of Sunday School Lessons. It declares in favour of a study of the Bible framed on a system that shall be moral and spiritual, a study of its doctrines and duties in a connected way. We also think that such a study is needed. We have long feared that the present method of teaching in the Sunday schools has not been favourable to indoctrination in great Bible truths and precepts. It seems to us to be very "scrappy."

INTOXICATED rats are a novelty in the list of the victims of alcohol; but a gentleman engaged in the business of distilling at Cincinnati states that the rats in his distillery are in the habit of drinking any spirits spilled on the ground or left in open vessels, and that they often become, in consequence, so tipsy that they cannot run, and are easily taken by hand. They pay with their lives the penalty of indulging in the inebriating fluid. The rum consumed by the rats is a very small proportion of that produced in that and other distilleries, but the bulk of the stuff operates in the same way. Helplessness, ruin, death, are its usual effects; but the victims are not rats; they are men and women endowed with reason and possessing immortal souls.

THE N.Y. "Independent" says: "Rev. Dr. Shedd writes from Hamadan, Persia, a very interesting letter about a movement among the Jews of that place. One of the oldest colonies of Jews in the world is found at Hamadan. Their ancestors were carried captive by the Assyrian king twenty-five centuries ago. For months past the colony has been agitated by the question: 'Is not Jesus the Messiah?' Four of the chief men, the heads of one thousand houses (about five thousand people), have, after long trial, been publicly baptized, and many others are asking to confess Christ. As in the days of the apostles, all the city is moved, and one Nestorian helper is day and night beset with Jews seeking instruction in the New Testament."

THE "Missionary Herald" for July showing how missions promote commerce says. "A few years ago no artificial light was used in Syria save that afforded by the little wick floating in a cup of olive oil. The people then seemed to have little need for lamps, but now that schools have been multiplied, and the people have learned to read, they desire to use their evenings for study. The result has been, according to Dr. H. H. Jessup, that there has been a great demand for oil for illuminating purposes, so that there is not a village or nook about Mt. Lebanon in which empty boxes, marked "astral oil," may not be seen. The first shipment of American oil to Syria was made by a Boston merchant in 1866, and last year the imports at Beirut alone amounted to 1,500,000 gallons. In more senses than one is America giving light to Syria.

DR. JOSEPH PARKER of London is out with "An Explanation and a Manifesto." He writes in "The Fountain" of May 29th and June 12th, and wages a fierce battle against what he terms "organized independence" in the mother country. Probably there is some ground for some of the hard things which he

says. We have sometimes thought that it looked as if all the affairs of the Congregational Union of England and Wales were managed by a clique. At all its gatherings the same names appear until their repetition becomes wearisome. The same men do the same things for ever and ever. It seems to us that the programmes of the Union are too much of the cut-and-dried order. There is no room for free, independent action. And it is quite possible also that officialism should frown on everything that does not fall in with its recommendations. Officialism is apt to do that. But, no doubt, we shall hear more of this subject.

FACTS brought to light by the Vermont "Chronicle" upon the facility with which divorces are procured in New England reveal a humiliating chapter of domestic discord sadly inappropriate to that enlightened district. The ratio of divorces to marriage in Massachusetts is 1 to 23, in Vermont 1 to 16, in Rhode Island 1 to 13, and in Connecticut 1 to 10! In 1877 there were 1,331 divorces in these four states. These startling figures show the necessity of prompt and vigorous efforts to correct the evil that is sapping the foundations of the divinely-appointed institution of the family. Preachers and parents and legislators have a duty before them that must be faithfully discharged or society will be wrecked. There is little hazard in saying that the rapid growth of this mischievous disregard of the sanctity of marriage is largely due to the flashy, skeptical, and infidel literature of the day.

"SAVONAROLA, THE MARTYR OF FLORENCE," was the title of a lecture delivered in the Bond street Congregational Church on Tuesday evening, 10th ult., by Rev. R. W. Wallace, B.D., of London, under the auspices of the Fraternal Society of the Church. The chair was occupied by the pastor, Rev. T. W. Handford. The audience appeared to be a very appreciative one, as was testified by the frequent bursts of applause which greeted the lecturer when delivering the more eloquent passages. The subject was treated in a masterly and interesting manner, the life and times of the heroic preacher-monk being vividly described, while the salient points of his character were clearly and ably set forth. Of course from the story of the life of such a man there can be many instructive lessons drawn, and the lecturer did not fail to press these upon his hearers' attention. The lecture closed with an eloquent and impressive peroration, in which was shown the lasting influence exerted by a man who will suffer death rather than give up his principles.—*Globe.*

THE Congregational Union of England and Wales has made arrangements for the delivery of a series of lectures during the year 188: by way of celebrating its jubilee. The programme is as follows: "Independents before the Commonwealth," by Rev. R. W. Dale, M.A., D.D.; "Archbishop Laud and the Puritans," by Rev. H. Allen, D.D.; "The Westminster Assembly," by Rev. J. Stoughton, D.D.; "The Commonwealth Period," by Rev. E. R. Conder, M.A.; "The Policy of the Restoration," by Rev. J. Kennedy, D.D.; "Schemes of Comprehension," by Rev. S. Pearson, M.A.; "Struggle for Civil Liberty in the Georgian Era—Abolition of Test and Corporation Acts," by Rev. J. B. Brown, B.A.; "Religious Revival in the Georgian Era and its Effects on the Development of the Free Church Principle," by Rev. A. Raleigh, D.D.; "Tractarianism and Congregationalism," by Rev. E. Mellor, D.D.; "Broad Church Doctrine and Congregationalism," by Rev. E. White; "The Struggle for Religious Equality," by Rev. J. G. Rogers, B.A.; "The Free Churches in America and the British Colonies," by Rev. W. Cutlbertson.