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

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Current Topics.

-A concordance to the revised New Testament is being prepared in London.

George Eliot's mother is still living, at the advanced age of ninety years. She is in Hobart, Tasmania.

-Mr. Edward A. Freeman, the popular English historian, will soon make an extensive tour of the United States, with a view, we presume, of writing a book on this country and its characteristics.

-The number of New Testaments of the new version already sold, if put in a pile, would reach over a mile and a half into the air, or one hundred and eighty times higher than the Cologne Cathedral spire. They would fill a warehouse 30x20x16 ft.

-The *Christian World* states that the Rev. Dr. John Cumming, once the most popular preacher in that city, though in good physical health, is in such a mental condition as to be practically dead to the world.

-There seems to be a perpetual Pentecost in the American Baptist Telegu Mission. The Rev. J. E. Clough writes from Ongole, March 18th, that in a six-weeks' tour he visited fifty two villages and baptized one thousand and three persons.

-The model of the goddess of Reason, during the reign of terror in Paris, then an acknowledged beauty, and surrounded by admiring friends, is reported to have lately died at the age of 99, having supported herself in later years as a rag-picker.

-The American Presbyterians and the American Baptists are the only denominations carrying on mission work in Siam. The Presbyterians work among the Siamese and the Laos, and the Baptists among the Chinese. The Presbyterians have a flourishing orphanage in Bangkok, the capital.

-Frederick Douglass, once a fugitive slave and now a Federal office-holder, last week delivered an oration on John Brown at Harper's Ferry, and at its close was congratulated by the state's attorney who conducted the prosecution against John Brown. Who can doubt that the world moves and that the soul of John Brown goes marching on?

-Hobart Pasha, the Turkish admiral, is an Englishman and is the son of the Earl of Buckinghamshire. He entered the English navy in 1836, and nine years later was made lieutenant of the Queen's yacht. During the American Rebellion he was a blockade-runner, and in 1867 entered the Ottoman service, where he rapidly acquired distinction. He is also a descendant of John Hampden.

-On May 24th Queen Victoria attained her 62nd birthday, an age which has been exceeded by eleven only of the sovereigns of England, dating from the Norman Conquest—namely, Henry I., who attained 67 years; Henry III., 65 years; Edward I., 67 years; Edward III., 65 years; Queen Elizabeth, 69 years; James II., 68 years; George I., 67 years; George II., 77 years; George III., 82 years; George IV., 68 years; and William IV., 72 years. On the 20th of June next she will have reigned forty four years, a period which has been exceeded by four English sovereigns only—namely, Henry III., who reigned 56

years; Edward III., who reigned for 50 years; Queen Elizabeth, who reigned 45 years; and George III., 60 years.

-Dr. Cuyler, in a letter in the *Christian at Work*, from Cairo, April 18, 1881, writes Yesterday I enjoyed my visit to the Sunday-school in the noble building of the American Presbyterian Mission. It made my eyes water to see those bright groups of Coptic and Arab boys and girls—in such clean, tasteful dresses—rise up and repeat in Arabic the International Series of Lessons. They were reciting the same Scriptures which my own blessed and beloved school in Lafayette avenue, Brooklyn, would repeat in a few hours—as soon as the Sabbath sun in its course reached our American skies. I made them a brief address, which was interpreted into Arabic, and I came away happy—and homesick, too.

-It is doubtful if the Philadelphians will be able to carry out their cherished design of transporting the remains of William Penn to their city for interment in the new municipal building. The English members of the Penn family refuse their assent, and the bones of the great Quaker will probably continue to repose in the obscure graveyard of the Friends in Buckinghamshire, England, where they were first buried. The recent discussion as to the selection of a proper person to accompany the remains, in case the project was successful, revealed the fact that there are four lineal descendants of William Penn now living in this country.—Dr. Penn Gaskell Skilleon, who still receives an income from the Penn estates in Ireland; Colonel Peter Penn Gaskell Hall; and two boys, descended through their dead mothers.

News has been received in London of the arrival of the Central African Mission party of the English Baptist Society at Stanley Pool, on the Congo. Mr. Bentley and Mr. Crudgington reached the Pool February 11th. They crossed the Pool, and were met in a threatening manner by the natives, but after a time discovered that this was chiefly due to a dislike of the action recently taken by M. le Comte de Brazza, who had professed to annex the country for 150 miles eastward to France. At a town five miles distant three French marines (black) were found stationed to guard a flag of the Republic during the absence of the Count on a visit to France. Here the missionaries were with difficulty protected by the marines from the violence of the new French subjects, who regarded them as invaders. Re-crossing to the north bank, they returned safely to Mr Stanley's camp, where they were hospitably entertained.

The most interesting business before the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church was the report of the Judiciary Committee on the subject of instrumental music in the churches. The majority report recommended that it is in violation of the law of the Church to introduce musical instruments in public worship, and that the sessions of churches in which musical instruments have been introduced be directed to remove them. A minority report that, if the memorialists desire to institute processes against the violators of the law, they do so in the session, instead of the Assembly. After a sharp discussion, the minority

report was substituted for that of the majority, by a vote of 107 to 53. It was also voted that an overture on the continuance or discontinuance of the present law be sent down to the presbyteries, for their opinions thereupon.

-Missionaries cannot, as a body, be accused of writing too rose-coloured views of their work. In giving an account of the encouraging features, they do not forget that there is another side. It is not necessary now, if, indeed, it ever was, to suppress what is unfavourable. Everybody believes that final success is obtainable, no matter how many or great the obstacles are. No one need be surprised that native Christians are not always such devoted Christians as are European and American communicants. The old leaven of heathenism and ignorance cannot be worked out altogether in one generation. The Rev. S. M. Creagh, of the London Society, writing of mission life in Lifu, one of the Loyalty Islands, says of the Christians:

"The aggregate number of church-members in the nine churches is 2,055. Native piety is not so deep and real as the religion of sincere Christians of more enlightened countries. There is a vast amount of superstition, error, and ignorance still pervading the minds of great numbers of our church-members. Their religion is more a thing to be seen than to be felt and enjoyed in the soul. We have not that amount of social elevation we could desire. The people for the most part cling to their old habits, herd promiscuously together; sleep in dirt and squalor, in houses with but one room and no window; wear but scant clothing, except on service days and holidays; and use language offensive to civilized ears. Hence, refinement does not exist amongst them and their moral feelings are not at all elevated.

The people, however, contribute to the support of the pastors, and some have gone out as missionaries to the inhospitable and unhealthy shores of New Guinea and given their lives in Christ's service. The training institution has sent out fifty seven native teachers, four of whom are now in New Guinea.

It is now nearly three years since the first mission party of the London Society's Central African Mission arrived in Ujiji. In this period much has been done to prepare the way for active evangelical work among the natives. Three stations have been established—one at Urambo, on the route from the Coast to Ujiji; one at Ujiji; and one at Uguha, on the western shore of the Lake. The Arabs, who were at first very suspicious and are still watchful, are not on unfriendly terms with the missionaries. Mr. Wookey writes from Ujiji as follows concerning the difficulties and progress of the mission:

"The work of the mission must of necessity make but slow progress for some time. Many of the natives are at first afraid of us, or suspicious of our intentions, others look upon us as fit subjects from which to extort cloth or other things. Curiosity as to our appearance soon wears off. The tones and accents and sounds of their strange language have to be written and learned, and words and idioms stored up and mastered, before we can reach them. Their prejudices and fears have to be overcome, and they be brought to feel that

we have an interest in their welfare. We have to fight against fever and the climate, which is no small matter. This and much more is being done. The natives are gaining confidence in us. They sometimes bring us presents of food and readily give us information. They are gaining confidence in our medicines, and sometimes we have a great many applicants for help of all kinds. We often have native visitors, who take a great interest in all they see and hear. They are fond of music. We have often had a crowd gathered round as eager listeners to Mr. Hutley playing his melodeon. By and by we hope to be able to preach and speak to them freely in their own tongue the wonderful love of Christ. As the country is opened up, and especially if the directors of the Society send out a small steamer, to be placed upon the Lake, the facilities for intercourse between the members of the mission and with the natives will be greatly increased, and we shall be able to plant new stations in the various districts."

The *Nonconformist* says:—In about another month, by favour of the Registrar-General, we may hope to get a summary of the main results of the recent Census. Much irregular information has, by local means, already leaked out, in which many of the metropolitan parishes have been included. And now we have an unrevised return of London as a whole, as well as the population of some nineteen great English towns as determined by the late enumerations. "London," says one of our evening contemporaries, "holds its own well, as the increase of population is 570,311 in the decade, or 17.2 per cent., while the increase in the population in the whole of the nineteen towns enumerated is 533,287, or 16.5 per cent. upon their previous numbers. This is the more remarkable since, in the preceding ten years, the figures showed a very different state of things. Then the metropolitan increase was 450,271, or 16.1 per cent., while that of the nineteen towns was 476,239, or 17.3 per cent. The figures, therefore, are reversed. London's rate of increase rising from 16.1 to 17.2, and that of the nineteen great provincial towns falling from 18.3 to 16.5. The population of the metropolis now exceeds by 50,000 that of the whole of these towns together, being 3,814,571, against 3,764,244. Nothing can better give one a just idea of the size and importance of London than this. Manchester and Liverpool, Salford and Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Bristol, Nottingham, all regard themselves as towns of no mean importance, and yet their united population, together with that of eleven other great towns falls short of that of London. The whole of Scotland has a smaller population than that of the metropolis, and by the end of another decade it is possible that Ireland will also be surpassed. This steady and ever-increasing rate of growth may well give cause for thought, and even for apprehension. So far no evils such as were feared by our fore-fathers have arisen from the enormous aggregation of people at one centre; but if London is to keep on growing at the present rate of increase, it will have attained dimensions by the end of the next century such as the world has never yet imagined, for it will by that time contain considerably over 12,000,000 inhabitants."