

# THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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## Editorial Jottings.

FOUR out of the seven Chicago Anarchists were executed on Friday, November 11. Two had their sentences commuted to imprisonment for life by the Governor of Illinois, and one committed suicide by placing a bomb in his mouth and igniting it the day before the execution. The result has produced a feeling of relief throughout the United States, and in some degree to Canada; for if our neighbour's house is on fire ours is in danger also, and the unchecked spread of Anarchist action across our border would too surely and too soon bring the same evil into our political and social life. Whatever men think abstractedly of the death punishment, all feel that the law of a country must be enforced, or they will become a sham and a laughing-stock, so here we say that as death is the penalty of murder in the State of Illinois it had to be in this case, or be abolished in all. The crime for which they suffered was committed in May of last year, eighteen months ago. The utmost latitude was allowed them on their trial; but the fact of their guilt was overpowering, and they were convicted. An appeal was taken to the highest court in the State, but was disallowed, and from thence to the Supreme Court of the United States, again to be rejected. All the resources of the law were tried, but failed to help them, and so they had to suffer. There are many and obvious morals suggested by this terrible event. We will name but one—the danger of society without God. This is not the first time by many that lesson has been written in letters of blood on the pages of history: the French Revolution of a hundred years ago and the Commune of Paris in our own day are striking instances. These men were one and all, in the worst sense, “without God,” and in their mad attempt to introduce the age of godlessness they used such methods as their creed justified, and

they have met the fate that men ever meet who work for such ends and who use such methods. They have perished, and although we may shrink from saying, in the spirit of one of old, “So let Thine enemies perish, O Lord of Hosts,” perish they have, and must. The lesson to us, especially to us in cities, is, let us see to it that the mass of humanity in our midst is not growing up in ignorance of God and Christ. Let us especially set forth Jesus, the friend of the poor, the healer of suffering, the elder brother of all humanity, the elevator and regenerator of the human race. Anarchy is wrong from first to last, it has no redeeming feature; but there is a socialism that is right, the socialism whose foundation is in the Gospel of the brotherhood of all in Christ Jesus. Let us teach and live this truth.

REV. DR. McCOSH has resigned the presidency of Princeton University. Under his presidency Princeton University has made great progress. His services to Christian thought have been many and valuable. He has been in continuous opposition to the school of Spencer, Mill and Bain, and he supports the doctrine of first principles in mind and morals—principles distinguished by their self-evidence, necessity and universality. Dr. McCosh is seventy-six years of age, and has been at Princeton nearly twenty years.

THE Republicans of Pennsylvania during the recent election took advanced ground on the liquor question, the Prohibition vote being thereby diminished by some 8,000 votes. In New York they straddled the fence, and the Prohibition vote was increased by a similar number. Many journals are emphasizing the significance of the lesson. The Temperance vote either there or here is not to be ignored.