

The Canadian Independent.

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

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"PRAY YE THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND FORTH LABOURERS INTO THE HARVEST."

REMEMBER that the second Sunday in October is the day set apart for prayer and collection for our College. Do not forget the collection, and do not fail to engage in earnest prayer for the Divine blessing to rest upon this great work of training men for the work of the ministry. Let our prayers and alms ascend together and the Divine blessing will richly descend.

REV. MR. MARSHALL, a Baptist missionary, writes to the Lucknow "Witness" that in Orissa, 400 Hindus have renounced caste and become Christians. There are among the 400 many of the highest caste and of considerable wealth.

WE may look forward now to Dr. Henry M. Dexter's lectures on Congregationalism. The Congregational Publishing Society, of Boston, is about to issue them. Dr. Dexter is one of the leading living authorities on "Historic Congregationalism."

THE Belgian bishops are in trouble. They did not like the scheme of education that the Government is carrying out, and so they proposed to use the parsonages, sacristies and churches for schools of their own. Now, the Minister of Justice forbids everything of the sort. If a church insists on State connection, it must take the loss with the gain.

WE learn that a Toronto house is about to reprint those excellent English publications, "The Sunday at Home," "The Leisure Hour," "The Boy's Own Paper." These periodicals are very cheap, and whatever appears in their columns may be depended on. There is nothing morally unsound that will find acceptance with their managers.

THE New York "Daily Witness" has been giving over a column daily to graphic description of the great international pedestrian contest that is going on in that city. This is on the outside page. On the inside page of the issue of September 25th there is a strong article denouncing these contests as they are con-

nected with gambling, drinking, etc., and says: "It is shameful to see the press giving such publicity to the tramps and galleys of these organized and bare-faced gamblers." Exactly. We think so too. Then why do you do it brother "Witness?"

THERE has been a great deal of talk for years about reforming the spelling of the English language. Certainly, a reform is very much needed. Some of the American newspapers have begun to do something in that direction. The "Chicago Tribune" took the lead in dropping silent and unnecessary letters, and other journals are following in its wake. But it looks queer to see such words as "demagog," "infinite," and so on. The change will effect a saving of time and space, however.

It is said that in Minnesota a large congregation of Quakers is losing ground and dwindling in numbers. The fact is accounted for by one of its own members in this way: "It is because of our failure to hold and interest our youth. The energy of other churches around us, exerted through their Sabbath schools, draws our young people away in spite of all we can do." Many another church has gone down because of its "failure to hold and interest its youth." The church that cares most for the children will be the successful church of the future.

It is with sorrow that we record the death of Dr. Joseph P. Thompson, once the pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle, New York. The event took place in London, England. Dr. Thompson had been an invalid for many years, his exertions during the American civil war having helped to make him so. Since his retirement from the pastorate, he has resided in Berlin, Germany, and has been engaged in literary work; and it is a marvel what amount of labour he has passed through notwithstanding his physical infirmities. Dr. Thompson was not a brilliant speaker; but he was a sound thinker, a thorough scholar, and a man of broad, liberal sympathies. He was one of the original editors of the New York "Independent," and he did much to make that the power it was in the earlier years of its publication.

A NEW means of grace has been recently discovered. Before it is patented we hasten to give it to our readers. If used this winter it will be a great boon to our churches. The pastors especially will urge its speedy adoption and the most conservative deacon will welcome it as a blessed innovation. The new invention is a rope stretched from pew to pew across all the back pews so as to prevent any from entering them on the Wednesday night prayer-meeting. It will compel the people to come forward and occupy the front seats. At the theatre and lecture it is the front seat that is coveted. But in the prayer-meeting it is the last seat nearest the door that is in demand. "Come mother, do hurry, or we shall be too late to get the back seat," said some children as they were preparing for the Wednesday evening prayer-meeting. Will church officials see that this new invention is introduced at once. Special care is needed to get a good strong rope and the nails must be well driven in.

There is abundant provision for the entertainment, and not a little for the instruction, of the young in the October number of "St. Nicholas." The elevated railways of New York are described in a long article, and with it are given eight admirable pictures of various views along the lines. The text and illustrations also show how the roads were constructed. "Noah's Ark Ashore," is the title of another descriptive article which will be eagerly read by every boy

and girl. It is a well-told narrative of a visit to a queer "Ark" on the Amazon river which a kind-hearted native had turned into a sort of asylum for beasts and birds of various kinds. The story of this novel institution is very interesting indeed, and the illustrations are really superb. There is a timely little paper telling all about the strange doings and mysteries of "Hallowe'en," and illustrated with a fitting frontispiece. The articles are so many that we cannot make room even for the titles of them, and we are sorry; for the bare table of contents is in itself an interesting piece of literature conducive to good humour.

RUSSIAN merchants, recently returned from the interior of China to St. Petersburg, have furnished terrible details respecting the famine which has for some time past prevailed throughout certain provinces of the Celestial Empire. They depose to having seen people die in the streets of many towns and villages from sheer starvation, and state not only that anthropophagy (eating) is practised on the bodies of the dead, but that famished men attack the living, and prey upon them with ferocity. One of them alleges that he was present at the examination of a mendicant who had been arrested for some petty theft, and in whose professional wallet the mangled remains of an infant were discovered. This man confessed to the magistrate that for some time previous to his seizure he had lived exclusively on the fresh flesh of human beings, as he could not surmount his antipathy to that of dead bodies. Another appalling case which came under the notice of a Russian merchant, was that of a young man who had persuaded his father to assist him in murdering and subsequently eating a girl to whom he was betrothed. Men have been executed for killing and eating their own children, and sons have slain their fathers in order to appease the pangs of hunger. In some of the northern districts whole villages stand empty, their inhabitants having one and all perished for want of food.

DR. JOSEPH MULLENS whose death we noticed in a recent issue, devoted his whole life to the cause of missions. He was born in 1820. He was a missionary in India from 1843 to 1866, when he returned to take the Secretaryship of the London Missionary Society. He spent one year in 1873-74 in Madagascar. The London Conference on Missions held last year was due largely to his influence. In June last he left England to help forward the mission in Central Africa, on Lake Tanganyika. The hardships of African travel, which he bore with great fortitude and patience, told heavily upon him. He was cheerful and made no complaint, but walking through the long grass exhausted him, and, at his age, was too great a strain upon his already reduced strength. On the 5th of July he caught a severe cold which was made still worse by his refusal to rest. Early in the morning of the 10th, after enduring patiently many hours of extreme suffering, he died, and on the 12th he was buried in the burial ground of the London Church Missionary Society at Mpwapwa. The news of Dr. Mullen's death was received in England with every demonstration of profound sorrow. His noble character and his great services will preserve his name as one of the most useful Christian workers of his time. Following close upon the tidings of Dr. Mullen's death comes the telegraphic report that the Rev. Mr. Dodgshun of the London Missionary Society, whose safe arrival at Ujiji had just been announced, has also fallen. What costly sacrifices are called for in the work of Christianizing Africa. As the leaders fall others will step in to fill the vacant places, and the "Dark Continent" will yet be won for Christ.