

The Canadian Independent.

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

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DR. W. GEO. BEERS of Montreal will lecture in the Western Congregational Church, of this city, on Tuesday evening, Feb. 11th. Subject, "Our Mother Land."

THE Republican Legislature of Connecticut has just ordered that no liquors, no wines, not even lager beer, shall be sold in the State House, and the resolution was passed with a great deal of enthusiasm.

WE observe that deacon Field of the Cohourg Congregational Church, has been named as the Reform candidate for the Ontario Assembly. This is right. We want good men and true to stand up for truth, and justice, and God, in our houses of Parliament.

WE learn that the Rev. T. M. Reikie has applied for admission to the Presbyterian Church, and has been recommended by the Presbytery to the Assembly. The Rev. J. A. R. Dickson is also about to enter that Church.

EVANSTON, Ill., twelve miles from Chicago, has no grog-shops. The charter of North-western University which has its seat there, denies to such institutions a foothold within four miles. There is an irrepressible conflict, or there ought to be, between colleges and rum-holes.

THE Nineteenth Century has at last reached Russia. The students have spoken recently. They ask for higher education and more liberty of thought. And the Czar answers—by imprisoning two hundred of them. Poor fellow! will not somebody tell him what will come of opposing the march of Destiny?

THE prospect seems to become darker in England. Thousands are out of employment. Thousands in employment are seriously disaffected. Suffering and want prevail. It seems at times as if there were some terrible catastrophe at the door. Meanwhile, Beaconsfield & Co. are shouting "glory!" with all their might.

THE Wentworth County Sunday School Convention was held in Ancaster, on January 30th and 31st. The attendance was not very large, but the spirit manifested and the work done were good. We notice that addresses were delivered by Messrs. W. Edgar, D. B. Chisholm, A. J. Mackenzie, Revs. Dr. Stewart, R. J. Laidlaw, J. Griffith and others.

Is there to be another Ecumenical Council? It looks very much like it. But what can it do? Thunder anathemas against "modern licentiousness," as it is termed? Curse the age because of its "infidelity," said "infidelity" consisting in turning away from Rome? We shall see if Mrs. Partington's broom can sweep back the rising tide.

REV. LYMAN ABBOTT is writing notes on the Gospel of John, which will form the fourth volume of his "Popular Commentary on the New Testament," for Christian workers and families. Abbott's Notes on Matthew, Mark and Luke, and the Acts, form the preceding three volumes of this series, the whole of which is in process of publication by the house of A. S. Barnes & Co., New York.

THE Pope is out with an Encyclical. He inveighs against Socialism, Communism and Nihilism, and attributes them to the Reformation. Well, probably the Reformation had some responsibility for these things. It is quite possible that if there had been no Protestantism, these evils would not have come into existence. But then it is just as true that if there had been no God there would have been no Satan.

VERMONT Congregationalists have been having a little bit of "diversion." Some of the leading ministers of the state insist on adherence to what they call "Historic Congregationalism." In brief, they think that no man has a right to Congregational fellowship unless he holds in the main to what the "fathers" believed. Others—but they are a minority—claim the right to think freely for themselves, without forfeiting their ecclesiastical standing. The battle has been a little hot; but its rage is spent by this time. Is it not clear enough that organized Congregationalism is an anomaly?

HERE are two items which will make some people stare. Rev. Henry B. Carpenter, of Bridgton, Maine, an orthodox Congregational minister in good standing, accepted a call from the Hollis Street church (Unitarian), Boston, of which Thomas Starr King was once pastor. And he assures the people that he will preach to them the doctrines he has been accustomed to preach to his previous orthodox congregation. *Per contra*, Rev. Robert Laird Collier, D.D., lately pastor of a Unitarian church in Boston, has been engaged to supply Chapel Lane Congregational church, Bradford, England, for two or three months.

FRANCE has passed through another crisis; but crises seem to be indigenous to French soil, and the present one has done the people no harm. Marshal MacMahon has resigned the Presidency: the cause, a difference of opinion between him and the Chambers in regard to high military commands. He retires from public life, and is succeeded by M. Jules Grevy, who was elected by a large majority in both branches of the legislature. With all his faults MacMahon has made a good administrator, and has done much to bring his country to its present prosperous condition. We hope that M. Grevy will do as good service as he has done.

EDWARDS County, Illinois, has not licensed a liquor saloon for twenty-five years. And what is the result? The clerk of the Circuit court testifies that during those twenty-five years the jail has not averaged one occupant a year; that this county has sent but one person to the penitentiary, and he got drunk at a licensed saloon in an adjoining county, and killed his wife; that the county has only an annual average of three or four persons to support; that its taxes are thirty-two per cent. less than in license-granting counties; and that the quarrels are so few that the Circuit court completes its work usually in a week.

FATHER HYACINTHE is strong in his hopes of a Reformed Catholic church of France, and equally strong in his denunciations of Jesuitism. In language singularly beautiful he declares his faith that the germs

of Gospel truth and Heavenly life yet exist in the Church, and would spring up to bless and gladden human hearts, if only freed from the chilling influence of Jesuitism. The Church, to be again a pure Church of Christ, needs, he contends, freedom from Papal rule; exclusion of celebrate priests, and the admission of laymen into its councils. In one of his addresses delivered in Paris, during the Exposition, and now published, may be found this beautiful passage: "The influence of Jesuitism has perverted the Church, and especially the theology of the Church. This theology is at this moment like those Egyptian mummies which have lain imprisoned and asleep for ages beneath their sacred wrappings. Only in some cases they hold grains of wheat in their black and shrivelled hands. . . Never was wheat more eager for life; it laid hold of the earth with its strong roots, and its stalk came forth richer and more abundantly fruitful. Catholic doctrine is like that grain of wheat. It is imprisoned in the hand of a corpse, but let us take care not to believe that it is dead."

THE CHARITIES OF TORONTO.—Last year the General Hospital ministered to 1,251 patients of whom 963 were discharged. The admission exceeded that of the previous year by 199. The Eye and Ear Infirmary had 115 under treatment, and discharged 109 in an improved condition. The House of Providence granted relief to 438 persons. The House of Industry supplied many poor females with food and fuel, and cared for 169 inmates, expending in all \$11,583. At the Home for Incurables, on Bathurst Street, there were twenty-nine sufferers, four of whom died during the year. The Magdalen Asylum gave shelter to ninety-five inmates; and the Good Shepherd refuge to fallen women, to fifty-two. The helpless "little ones" were cared for as follows: The Orphan's Home provided for 134 children; the R. C. Orphan Asylum for 423, Girl's Home for 200, Boy's Home for 156, Newsboy's Lodging for 148, Infant's Home for 149, and St. Nicholas Home for 109. In addition to this, there was the relief granted to the different societies, by church boards, and by private individuals. "I was hungered and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in, naked and ye clothed me; I was sick and ye visited me: I was in prison and ye came unto me."

FROM the Eleventh Annual Report of the Inspector of Asylums, Prisons, and Public Charities of Ontario, we glean the following facts: There are 101 such institutions in the Province. In their maintenance, the Government expended \$520,000. Of this amount, \$270,000 was spent on asylums, \$62,700 on Deaf, Dumb and Blind institutions, and \$211,300 on prisons and reformatories. There are 1,214 insane persons in our asylums. During the year 12,030 persons were committed to the common gaols, 2,013 of whom were females. The year previous there were 13,481 commitments of whom 1,886 were females. It will thus be seen that the number is a decrease on the previous year, and it is the first time such an event has occurred. It is to be regretted that while the number of male commitments show a decrease of 1,578, the number of females committed show an increase of 127 for the same period. No less than 25,075 persons, including prisoners of all classes, indigent persons, physical and mental defectives, orphans, etc., passed through, and for a shorter or longer period were maintained at public cost in those various institutions during the last official year. Add to these the number relieved by cities and municipalities, and the aggregate amounts to over 40,000 persons in our province who have been cared for at the public expense.