

The Canadian Independent.

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

Vol. 29.]

TORONTO, THURSDAY, DEC. 2, 1880.

[New Series. No. 23.]

THE LORD MY ROCK, FORTRESS, DELIVERER.

BY E. LOUISA MATHER.

Life's paths are wintry and chilly,
And my feet are tired, O Lord!
My heart and flesh both fail me
As I'm passing under Thy rod.

O tears that are worse than useless,
O fears, that beset me sore!
When shall my spirit find gladness,
True balm on the upper shore?

My heart and my flesh may fail me,
But, O Father, Thy word is sure.
Thou art my hope and my portion,
Thy love shall forever endure.

Then welcome all pain and all crosses,
As short is the time for my stay;
Welcome the smart and the losses,
And the briars that encompass my way.

O Rock! in life's desert so weary;
I haste to thy cooling shade;
In thy clefts I will find my shelter
What time I am sore afraid.

O Fortress of strength and of safety!
My feet are still heaving on,
Till the tide of the battle turning,
Brings the rest that is truly won.

Haste, O Deliverer! hasten,
For my sun goeth down in the west,
I long for a glimpse of Life's river,
In the heavenly land of rest.

Thy rod and Thy staff through death's valley
Shall most surely give me aid;
As homo to my rest I am going,
I cannot be sad nor afraid.

But will sing through the gloom and the
darkness
To my Father, the Heavenly King,
That through Jesus is victory given,
That death hath no more a sting.
—Religious Herald.

Topics of the Week.

- New York has 266 city missionaries.
- In Thuringia, Christian burial is denied to suicides.
- The revival work of "California" Taylor left permanent results in Australia.
- There is a meeting of negro Quakers at Helena, Arkansas, and a society of 100 Mexicans at Matamoros.
- The suspension of trade on Sunday is asked for by 500 shopkeepers of Zurich, Switzerland.
- Pero Hyacintho's Old Catholic movement is not an entire success. He needs financial assistance.
- Miss Annie L. Shaw was ordained at Tarrytown, by the New York Methodist Protestant Conference.
- A Pan-Lutheran Council is suggested to be held at Old Wittenberg, the city of Luther and the Reformation.
- An iron church was sent from London for the Esquimaux Presbyterians on Little Whale River, Hudson's Bay.
- The Congregationalists have begun work in Arizona. A church of thirteen members was organized at Prescott.
- The first Presbyterian Church of Chicago held its communion in a log house. Since, it has admitted 8,000 members.

—Restrictions on missionary work in Tahiti have been removed, and 8,000 natives are under Christian direction.

—Within three months, fifty Christians have been killed by Mohammedans in the vicinity of Robert College, Constantinople.

—The New Orleans *Christian Advocate* says: "Spencer, Huxley and Ingersoll may be men of blameless morals, but their principles taken up and imbibed by the masses, tend to recklessness and vice."

—More editions of Thomas a Kempis' "Invitation of Christ" have been published than of any other book except the Bible. The 500th anniversary of his birth will be celebrated at Kempen, in the Rhineland.

—The Detroit *Post* says that a circus clown in Virginia took occasion, the other day, at the close of the performance, to speak plain and very searching words, which deserve the sober attention of many more than those who heard them. In his painted face and mottled garments he said:

"We have taken in six hundred dollars here to-day; more money, I venture to say, than any minister of the Gospel in this community would receive for a whole year's services. A large portion of this money was given by church members, and a large portion of this audience is made up of members of the church. And yet, when your preacher asks you to aid him in supporting the Gospel, you are too poor to give anything. But you come here and pay dollars to hear me talk nonsense. I am a fool because I am paid for it; I make my living by it. You profess to be wise, and yet you support me in my folly. But perhaps you say you did not come to see the circus, but the animals. If you came simply to see the animals, why did you not simply look at them and leave? Now, is not this a pretty place for Christians to be in? Do you not feel ashamed of yourselves? You ought to blush in such a place as this."

—Another trouble threatens England, and in her most vulnerable point. A rebellion has broken out in Northern Cashmere and a general rising is said to be imminent. The Maharajah's troops are now engaged in an attempt to quell it, but should they fail, as they probably will, if the revolution becomes general, then British troops will have to be sent to establish peace. Britain has undertaken this obligation in return for the acknowledgment by the Prince of British supremacy. The Sikhs conquered Cashmere in 1819 and in 1836 by the treaty of Lahore transferred it to England, who sold it to Gholab Singh for a large sum, England undertaking to defend Gholab from his enemies. Cashmere is a basin-like valley enclosed by the Karakorum and Himalaya mountains. The land is very fertile when the usual quantity of rain falls, but when the irrigating canals become dry it is a burnt up valley, and the people being improvident die off by thousands. By earthquakes, pestilence and famine the population has been reduced from eight hundred thousand at the beginning of the century to about two hundred thousand at the present time.

—The announcement is made that any friend of the Bible Revision undertaking who will send ten dollars or more before February next to help to pay the expenses of the American Revision Committee, will receive a memorial copy of the first University edition of the revised New Testament, handsomely bound and inscribed. The issue is expected from the University presses of Oxford and Cambridge in February next. The American revisers have given their time and labor for eight years without compensation, while the necessary expenses have been paid by subscriptions. Those who wish to aid by accepting the offer now made can send the money to Rev. Dr. Schaff or Mr. Andrew L. Taylor, in the Bible House, New York. The American Committee announces that only those editions of the Revision which include the marginal renderings published or approved by the University presses of England will be recognized as the authorized editions.

—The Pope appears to have been much embarrassed by the representations on the Irish question and efforts to get him to commit himself on the side of the revolutionists. These seemed to have been successful, when the *Aurora*, the Vatican organ, gave way to sympathy with the revolutionary cause, but Leo expresses himself differently. He claims no omniscience, but says that in default of hearing both sides, anything he would say would be liable to extreme fallibility, and therefore he would simply advise the maintenance of law and order and abstinence from crime.

—The *Guardian* says:—Another step, and a very important one, has been taken towards the evangelization of Japan. From the London *Watchman* we make the following extract: "The New Testament in Japanese has been introduced into the public schools of Yokohama, by order of the city authorities." This we consider a most decided advance. If the rising generation be indoctrinated with the teachings of the New Testament, the hold of their native superstitions upon them will be inevitably relaxed, and will soon give way. From the men and women of the future, thus taught, what may not be expected?

—The news from South Africa is not very encouraging. Although the Colonial troops are generally victorious when they come in contact with the rebellious natives, yet they do not make much headway in putting down the revolt. Those already in rebellion are constantly being joined by other tribes, and thus the territory exposed to raids is continually being extended. This is serious, as the colonial forces are already severely taxed in the effort to deal with the rebellion within its present confines. No news from the Transvaal may be regarded as good news, as a successful rebellion in that quarter would have made itself known long before this.

—Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, whose death was announced by cable, leaves behind him few men whose intellectual powers can be compared with his. He was a man of great strength and originality of character. As a friend, or a partisan, rather, he was too faithful, and as

an enemy he was implacable. Those who "love a good hater," would have found in him much to admire. His connection with the celebrated Tichborne case showed this trait of his character very plainly. The prominence which his great intellectual powers gave him was, however, his greatest recommendation, and the fact that his social relations and moral character were such as led the Queen to refuse to bestow upon him honors to which, but for these considerations, he was entitled, no doubt had some influence. As Great Britain's representative in the Geneva arbitration upon the Alabama claims, he refused to sign the award, and in fact protested against it, on the ground that it was altogether too great. The fact that the United States has found it impossible to distribute the whole award among the legal claimants vindicates his course. He lived to be a comparatively old man, being seventy-eight years of age.

—The promotion of the Panama Canal scheme has been resumed with extraordinary vigor. The movement is so universal that success, as regards subscription and capital, is certain. Adhesions are arriving from every quarter of the globe. De Lesseps told the *Times'* correspondent that the news arriving every moment confirmed his conviction that the enterprise is safe. Every country in Europe is taking part in it. Offices are being opened in Germany, Austria and Italy, and subscriptions are flowing in. The English have run up the share to a premium on the Paris Bourse by sending orders which cannot be executed except by paying premium.

Never since the day of the Sultan Mahmoud has any Sultan ventured so completely to defy the public opinion of the civilized world as the present Sultan Abdul Hamid. The Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs announces officially to Mr. Layard, that hereafter no Moslem shall be allowed to leave his religion and become a Christian under penalty of death; that no one shall be allowed to teach doctrines subversive of Islam, and that, in defiance of treaties, any foreigner engaged in such teaching may be arrested and imprisoned without consulting the foreign consuls or ambassadors. In Syria, intelligent Moslems condemn this resolve.

A few days ago the engineer of a train near Montreal saw a large dog on the track, barking furiously. The engineer whistled, but the dog paid no attention to the noise, and refused to stir. The dog was run over and killed. The engineer saw the animal crouched close to the ground as he was struck by the cow-catcher. A minute later the fireman saw a bit of white muslin fluttering on the locomotive, and he stopped the engine. On going back to where the dog was killed, it was discovered that not only the dog, but a little child had been killed. It was then seen that the dog was standing guard over the child, and had barked to attract the attention of the engineer. The faithful animal had sacrificed his life rather than desert his charge. The child had wandered away from a neighboring house, followed by the dog, and it is supposed that the child laid down and went asleep on the track.